





## HOME NEWS

## Farm men may call strikes and try to halt food deliveries

By Raymond Perman  
Labour Staff

Farmworkers' leaders may call for a campaign of selective strikes to win local pay improvements after yesterday's decision by the Agricultural Wages Board not to meet the demand for a £35 minimum weekly wage.

The board, increasing its previous offer of £27.80 minimum plus a threshold agreement, offered £28.50 from January 20, rising to £30.50 in July, but the rate was approved only on the vote of the five independent members. In an unprecedented move, both the National Farmers' Union, representing employers, and the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers abstained.

The farm workers' union executive later described the award as inadequate. Mr. Reginald Bottini, general secretary, said that a national strike had not been considered. "One must recognize that the board has made a legally enforceable order."

"We are asking our county and district committees to hold emergency meetings to consider executive-supported industrial action to secure local agreements with the larger farms and estates," he said. Local committees will meet by January 29 and the executive will consider their comments the next day.

The farmworkers' union, he added, felt that the board had not gone nearly far enough to establish a proper rate. If a £30.50 minimum was justified in July, it was justified from January. He added: "This will do little to close the earnings gap of about £14 between farm and industrial workers."

Feelings over the wage award have been running high. Militant farmworkers from Kent protested outside the meeting yesterday, calling for a strike if the demands were not met.

The move to seek local top-up of the national rate will be a fresh departure for the agricultural workers, who have previously relied on the board to raise earnings. But recently they have become disillusioned and they walked out of a previous board meeting in protest at what they saw as little more than a rubber-stamping of the farmers' offer.

Mr. John Davies, chairman of the NFU employment committee, said the board had no new evidence merely rearranged its previous proposals. The cost to the industry would remain the same, at about £58m a year, but craftsmen on farms would lose so that labourers' rates could be increased.

He added: "Independent members felt they could not accept threshold payments as being the right method in the present political climate for settling wage disputes. It was a political decision rather than an economic one."

## Talks on national papers dispute adjourned

By our Labour Staff

Talks aimed at resolving the dispute between the National Graphical Association and the proprietors of national newspapers were adjourned yesterday for at least a week.

Mr. Joseph Wade, assistant general secretary of the NGA, said: "We have made no significant progress over the past few days and my negotiating committee feel that they have got to take further briefing from the executive."

The talks started last Wednesday at the offices of the Conciliation and Arbitration Service. Mr. Wade added that the union had been asked by Mr. James Morrison, chairman of the CAS, not to reimpose industrial action while the talks were adjourned, and it was likely that they would agree.

retary of the Newspaper Publishers Association, said: "Endeavours to obtain a joint statement on procedure relating to the new agreement were adjourned pending a report back by the NGA negotiating committee to their executive council."

The dispute is over a 6½ per cent pay offer, which has been accepted by five other unions in the industry. The production of nearly all national newspapers was disrupted by action by NGA members in the early part of last week, but the campaign was suspended on Thursday so that talks could reopen.

The NGA argues that by accepting the NPA offer it would lose some of the differential its members have over other printing workers.

## Wife faces another charge at Guildford

Thirteen people were further remanded by Guildford magistrates yesterday in connection with bomb attacks on public houses at Guildford and Woolwich. One, Mrs. Anne Maguire, already charged with murder, was further charged with possessing explosive for unlawful purposes.

All 13 were remanded in custody for seven days. Two were charged with the murder of Gunner Richard Dunne, aged 42, in the Woolwich attack, and the murder of a WRAC recruit, Miss Caroline Slater, aged 18, at Guildford.

They are: Paul Hill, aged 20, of Burnley Crescent, Belfast; and Patrick Armstrong, aged 24, of Algonquin Road, Kilburn, London.

Six were charged with the Guildford murder. They are: Mrs. Anne Maguire, aged 39, of Third Avenue, Paddington, London; John Joseph McGuinness, aged 20, of Roudon Road, Cricklewood, London; Brian Anderson, aged 22, also of Roudon Road; Paul Joseph Coleman, aged 18, of Algonquin Road, Kilburn; Gerard Patrick Conlon, aged 20, of Cyprus Street, Belfast; and Carole Richardson, aged 17, of Earl's Court Square, London.

Four others were charged with possessing nitroglycerine in the Greater London area for unlawful purposes. They are: Mrs. Maguire's husband, Patrick, aged 41; William Smyth, aged 36, Patrick O'Neill, aged 34, and Patrick Conlon, aged 51, all of Third Avenue, Paddington. Mrs. Maguire also faces this charge.

Patrick Conlon was said to be too ill to attend court and was remanded in his absence.

One was charged with conspiring to cause explosions in the Greater London area. He is John Joseph Mullin, aged 22, of Roudon Road, Cricklewood.

Reporting restrictions were not lifted during the hearing, which was held in strict security. This is the first time that the addresses of the defendants have been disclosed.

## Dartmoor carols cancelled

Plans for a carol concert inside Dartmoor prison yesterday were cancelled after a dispute involving prison officers.

Other Christmas activities inside the jail, which include the screening of two films, *The Ten Commandments* and *The Great Train Robbery*, are not expected to be affected.



O come, all ye faithful . . . Worcester Cathedral choir exhorting Christians at a carol service

## Miners seek union overtime limit

Yorkshire miners are seeking guidance from their union's national executive on the amount of overtime they should work. Mr. Arthur Scargill, president of the Yorkshire area of the National Union of Mineworkers, said yesterday that an executive recommendation that branches should determine their own amount of overtime was not acceptable.

"We feel the national executive should be more specific in respect of what they mean by a limit on the amount of overtime worked," he said.

Overtime had gone up from 8 per cent to 17.5 per cent since March, he said. Yorkshire miners were not calling for the banning of overtime, but were asking for a national policy, "not some wistly-wistly ideas, but specific guidelines".

A threat of industrial action by the Yorkshire miners over unworkable fuel allowances for retired miners and widows was lifted yesterday.

## British Airways asks for Laker Skytrain licence to be revoked

By Arthur Reed  
Air Correspondent

British Airways has asked the Civil Aviation Authority to revoke the licence the authority gave the independent Laker Airways two years ago to operate the walk-on Skytrain cheap fare service across the North Atlantic.

Announcing that last night, Mr. David Nicolson, chairman of British Airways, justified the state corporation's decision by the fact that circumstances in the world air transport industry had changed greatly since the CAA first granted the Skytrain licence in September, 1972.

The volume of traffic had been falling, operating costs had risen, low-fare traffic was now provided for in other ways, and the Skytrain operation would "dump 250,000 seats on to a route where they are not needed".

British Airways sent a formal notification of its action to Mr. Freddie Laker, chairman and owner of Laker Airways, who commented later: "I am

confident that I shall be starting my new service in April."

Mr. Laker first applied for the Skytrain licence with proposed fares of £32.50 single in the winter months between London and New York and £37.50 in summer. As a result of inflation, his latest proposed fares are £52 and £59 respectively.

A second important consideration is that British Airways wishes to record its attitude before the inquiry into the future of British civil aviation recently established by Mr. Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, begins its work. Mr. Nicolson made clear last night that it was likely that the airline would also ask for the revocation, at some time, of the North Atlantic licence held by the other big independent airline, British Caledonian.

Mr. Nicolson said: "The critical situation now facing world air transport reinforcement of the Skytrain licence. This Government and the Americans have sat on it for two years, doing nothing."

to start it would cream off many passengers on a route where, this year, there were 7,500,000 empty seats, or the equivalent of 36 empty jumbo jets flying in each direction each day.

But whereas passengers would, under Mr. Laker's scheme, be able to book on the day of travel by going to the airport, it is necessary to make a reservation at least two months ahead of the departure date under the ABC scheme.

The main worry of British Airways is plainly that if Skytrain receives permission from the United States Government

## Christmas in prison for football supporter

A football supporter is kicked out with a steel capped boot at another sportsman during the Chelsea match against West Ham on Saturday. He will spend Christmas in Penitentiary prison.

Brian Marks, aged 22, electrician's mate, of Stephen's Road, East Ham, was remanded in custody yesterday until December 30 by London Magistrates' Court that he was legally represented. He pleaded guilty to charges under the Public Order Act of using threatening language at Stamford Bridge ball ground.

Police Constable At Wareham said Chelsea scored and rival supporters were about to fight. "I was thrown and I went the crowd," he said. "I was thrown forward on the terrace and I was hit with a steel capped boot and struck the persons there."

The officer said that arrested, Mr. Marks was "My mate got it, so I went to look after him."

Mr. Marks told the court: "A crowd of blacks cloth my mate and I turned to him."

Remanding him, Mr. Lowry, a magistrate, said: "You have been dealt with a number of occasions with leniency. The time has come when leniency ended."

Two Chelsea football supporters who were said to have caused a rival supporter a platform at Fulham way station were each fined £25 by the court after pleading guilty to disorderly behaviour. A man aged 25 was fined £35 for an offence and magistrates adjoining room imposed fine on a man, aged 25, also admitted using threatening behaviour at the match.

## Duke on television

The Duke of Edinburgh appear in a special of the BBC television *Nat* programme on New Year to mark the start of the

**URGENT! World Food Crisis**

**"my hungry brother is your brother too"**

World food stocks are at their lowest since the end of the war. Inevitably, the poor nations have ended up at the end of the queue. And people like Abdul Latif and his little brother in Bangladesh could simply starve.

Oxfam is now fighting hard to meet calls for emergency food. We desperately need your help.

But surely this crisis must also make us all question our own waste of scarce food resources, and above all make us now determined to help the other half of the human family increase their food production for the future.

For Oxfam to continue to help poor communities improve their own farming methods, we need to be able to plan ahead on the basis of a regular income.

Even if you can spare only 3%, or 1% of your income (1% is £1 a month if you earn £1,200 a year), it can make a world of difference in a hungry corner of the world.

For today's emergency please send whatever you can. Quickly. Just £5 will buy a sack of wheat. If you would like to contribute to constructive development on a regular basis, please fill in the Banker's Order form below. You'll never give a better Christmas present.

## Feed all the family

This form is simply an instruction to your bank to pay regularly whatever sum you choose to Oxfam's work. You can of course cancel it at any time by contacting your bank.

To: The Manager  
Bank Name  
Bank Address

Please pay to the account of OXFAM (Incorporated), Barclays Bank, High Street, Oxford, (20-65-81, Account 00546784) the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ pounds (£) and \_\_\_\_\_ pence (p) on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ month/quarter/year on the same day until further notice.

Name (Block letters please)  
Address

Signature  
When completed this form should be sent to OXFAM

## 'Mastermind' title won by a third woman

By Kenneth Gosling

Mrs Elizabeth Horrocks last night demonstrated once again that the female of the species has the steadier nerve when facing Magnus's two-minute bursts of rapid-fire questions. But she thought it "just a coincidence" that BBC television's *Mastermind* title should go to a woman for the third year running.

Mrs Horrocks, who follows in the successful footsteps of Mrs. Nancy Wilkinson, the 1972 winner, and Mrs. Patricia Owen, last year's champion, said all three semi-finals of *Mastermind* were recorded on the same day to give all the winners an equal time to study for the final.

"I had 28 days to read again 16 books of Dorothy L. Sayers for my third subject," she said. "They were books, rather dog-eared now, that my father bought, and I went on reading them when he died. They are the ones I know and the ones I enjoy."

She was glad she had settled for fiction in her third round, she rattled off 18 correct answers. Had it been Shakespeare, her first specialist subject, she felt she would not have done so well.

She had a huge following in Cardiff, where she comes from, and Bristol, where she was at university. And what she calls her "wide smattering of shallow knowledge" gained mostly from listening to Radio 4, was the key to success.

Why did she enter? "I did it without telling anyone in



Mrs Elizabeth Horrocks

case they said 'no'. I have listened to previous quizzes, and people do not seem to be able to apply their knowledge correctly," she said.

She likes, and always has liked, proper examination conditions, which is why the inquisition atmosphere of *Mastermind* suited her.

Although she put down women's success in the contest to sheer coincidence, it may be, she says, that women never have to be absolutely single-minded.

The 28-year-old former teacher was able to relax completely and watch herself winning last night. Then she became absolutely single-minded and put all her knowledge of baby care towards the problem of getting her 14-month-old daughter Katherine to sleep.

## Minister is to reopen oil refinery inquiry

Mr. Crosland, Secretary of State for the Environment, is to reopen the inquiry into plans to build an oil refinery at Cliffe, in Kent, which was disclosed yesterday. He gave outline permission in March for a refinery at Cliffe and a rail terminal at Higham.

Several parties asked for the inquiry, first held in 1972, to be reopened, chiefly on the ground that the development would be much different from the original plans by Burmah-Total Refineries Trust and that other material considerations had changed.

## Four accused of murder in Belfast

Four men were charged yesterday with three murders in Belfast. Two, aged 27 and 28, accused of killing Mr. Joseph McDermott, aged 35, a Roman Catholic, whose body was found at the weekend, were remanded in custody until January 6.

A man aged 26 was accused of the murder of Mr. Alexander Ramsey, who was killed outside a church last month. Another man, aged 21, charged with the murder of Mr. Brian Shaw, found in a house in the Lower Falls district, was remanded in custody until December 31.

## Immigrant plot trial

Six Indians, a German and a Dutchman were committed for trial in custody to Southend Crown Court at Southend yesterday, jointly charged with conspiring together and with other persons to contravene the Immigration Act, 1971.

Two of the Indians are from south London: Mehanga Singh, aged 35, a welder, of Adamston Road, Plumstead, and Raj Kumar, aged 32, a fitter, of Priolo Road, Charlton. The four other Indians, all with addresses near Delhi, are Balwinder Singh, aged 17, Kurlinder Singh, aged 29, Sajjan Singh, aged 33, and Narander Singh, aged 19.

## Fire victims remembered at service

Hundreds of Christmas shoppers stood in silence yesterday as mourners arrived for a memorial service for the 13 pensioners who died when fire swept the Fairfield old people's home eight days ago at Edwalton, Nottinghamshire. Anglican, Roman Catholic and Methodist leaders took part in the service at St. Giles's Church, West Bridgford. One lesson was read by Mrs. Alice Johnson, the assistant matron at Fairfield, and another by Mr. Ernest Lester, chairman of Nottinghamshire County Council.

In his address, the Bishop of Southwell, said: "In this world we cannot avoid living at risk."

## Tower hotel at South Bank agreed by Mr Crosland

By our Planning Reporter

The Government has overruled objections to a 380ft hotel at South Bank, London, close to the new National Theatre.

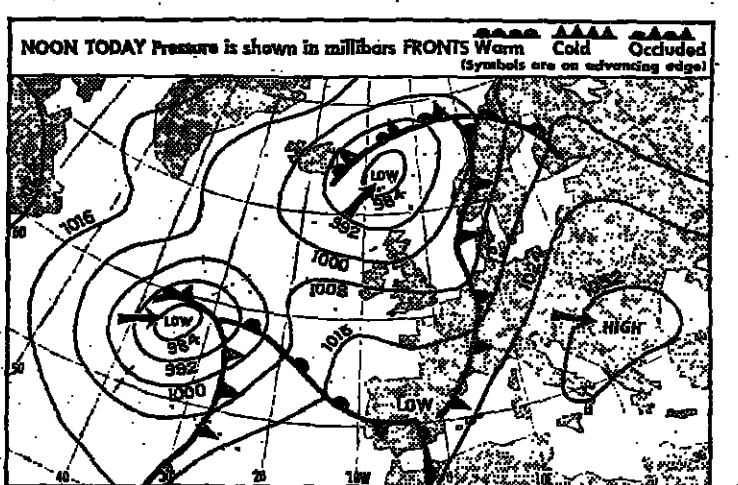
Mr. Crosland, Secretary of State for the Environment, said yesterday that in the light of all the representations, he had decided there were not enough grounds for withholding planning permission. Resisting the hotel tower would present serious difficulties and would not be justified.

The tower would not be an isolated example of a tall building, but would form one of a series on the skyline of a redeveloped South Bank, he said.

Lasdon, the National architect, objected to consultation on the project. Greater London Council the hotel plans. Other contented that the building would be theatre and ruin any give a distinctive appearance of London's most sites.

However, the plans two years later met approval. The design Derek Stephenson, Heron Corporation, onwealth Holiday Canada, envisages a glass and aluminium higher than the new Shell building.

## Weather forecast and recordings



## Christmas Eve

Sun rises: 8.5 am  
Sun sets: 3.55 pm  
Moon rises: 2.42 am  
Moon sets: 12.28 pm  
Full Moon: December 29  
Lighting up: 4.25 pm to 7.36 am  
High Water: London Bridge: 9.51 am, 5.7m (18.6ft); 9.40 pm, 5.9m (19.2ft).  
Avonmouth, 1.58 am, 10.0m (32.8ft); 2.36 pm, 10.1m (33.3ft).  
Dover, 6.20 am, 5.5m (17.9ft); 7.8 pm, 5.4m (17.5ft).  
Hull, 12.53 am, 5.9m (19.3ft); 2.1 pm, 5.8m (19.0ft).  
Liverpool, 6.36 am, 6.7m (22.1ft); 7.1 pm, 7.0m (22.9ft).

## Christmas Day

Sun rises: 8.6 am  
Sun sets: 3.56 pm  
Moon rises: 3.33 am  
Moon sets: 12.59 pm  
Full Moon: December 29  
Lighting up: 4.36 pm to 7.36 am  
High Water: London Bridge: 9.52 am, 5.8m (19.0ft); 10.41 pm, 6.1m (20.0ft).  
Avonmouth, 3.13 am, 10.4m (34.1ft); 3.51 pm, 10.7m (35.1ft).  
Dover, 7.2 am, 5.6m (18.3ft); 8.10 pm, 5.6m (18.3ft).  
Hull, 2.11 am, 5.9m (19.5ft); 3.3 pm, 6.1m (20.0ft).  
Liverpool, 7.42 am, 7.0m (23.1ft); 8.5 pm, 7.3m (23.9ft).

## Boxing Day

Sun rises: 8.6 am  
Sun sets: 3.55 pm  
Moon rises: 3.33 am  
Moon sets: 12.59 pm  
Full Moon: December 29  
Lighting up: 4.37 pm to 7.36 am  
High Water: London Bridge: 9.52 am, 6.1m (20.0ft); 11.1m (36.4ft).  
Avonmouth, 3.13 am, 11.1m (36.4ft).  
Dover, 7.2 am, 5.6m (18.3ft); 8.10 pm, 5.6m (18.3ft).  
Hull, 2.11 am, 5.9m (19.5ft); 3.3 pm, 6.1m (20.0ft).  
Liverpool, 7.42 am, 7.0m (23.1ft); 8.5 pm, 7.3m (23.9ft).

An unstable SW to W airstream will cover the British Isles.

Area forecasts:  
London, SE, central S, E, SW, central N England, East Anglia: Midlands, Channel Islands, S Wales: Sunny periods, scattered showers; wind SW, fresh or strong; max temp 8°C (46°F).  
N Wales, NW, NE England, Lake District, Isle of Man: Frequent showers, bright intervals; wind S, fair; rain; s, sun.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	12°C	SW	c
Edinburgh	10°C	W	c
Glasgow	10°C	W	c
Belfast	10°C	W	c
Cardiff	10°C	W	c
Birmingham	10°C	W	c
Manchester	10°C	W	c
Nottingham	10°C	W	c
Leeds	10°C	W	c
Sheffield	10°C	W	c
Coventry	10°C	W	c
Southampton	10°C	W	c
Bristol	10°C	W	c
Exeter	10°C	W	c
Plymouth	10°C	W	c
Cardiff	10°C	W	c
Belfast	10°C	W	c
London	12°C	SW	c
Edinburgh	10°C	W	c
Glasgow	10°C	W	c
Belfast	10°C	W	c
Cardiff	10°C	W	c
Birmingham	10°C	W	c
Manchester	10°C	W	c
Nottingham	10°C	W	c
Leeds	10°C	W	c
Sheffield	10°C	W	c
Coventry	10°C	W	c
Southampton	10°C	W	c
Bristol	10°C	W	c
Exeter	10°C	W	c
Plymouth	10°C	W	c
Cardiff	10°C	W	c
Belfast	10°C	W	c

Published daily except Sunday and Bank Holidays. For more details see page 2.



## HOME NEWS

## Taxes should pay for firemen, police and education, traders say

By Christopher Warman  
Local Government  
Correspondent

The responsibility for all local authority expenditure on education, the fire service and the police should be transferred to central government, the Association of British Chambers of Commerce states today.

In evidence to the Layfield Committee of Inquiry into local government finance, the association rejects alternative methods of financing local authority spending, and favours a system as long as "rigorous economies are made."

The association believes that local government reorganisation has resulted in widespread extravagance, but suggests a system for economies by ending subsidies in some spheres, notably planning and valuation. It recommends regular inspection of local authorities by a central government body, and that local authorities should be treated as a "competent and salutory check on wastefulness."

The association argues that the cost of services governed by national standards and objectives should be met by national taxation rather than local rates. "We commend on this basis that responsibility for all expenditure under the heads of education, the fire services, and the police should be transferred to the Exchequer and that grants to local authorities in respect of these services should cease."

Local authorities should still have a role in respect of those services, and he said by the government as agents in their administration. "Rates were levied only to offset the cost of local services

and amenities, ratepayers would have an incentive to ensure that the elected representatives authorised expenditure only on what ratepayers themselves wanted."

"We recommend, however, that the expenditure of local authorities on those services for which they would be entirely responsible under our proposals should be limited." The limit would be related to the aggregate expenditure in a base year, such as 1973, and could be raised annually by a rate not exceeding the rate of growth of the gross domestic product.

Rejecting alternative sources of local government revenue, the association says the disadvantages outweigh the advantages. Administrative difficulties would be too great for a system of local income tax, and site-value rating would raise as many difficulties as the present system.

While opposed to the running of lotteries by local authorities, the association does suggest two possible means of increasing revenue. Central government should impose a limit on the amount of subsidisation from the rates for the rents of council dwellings, so that the amount available for spending on other local services is not unreasonably depressed.

The National Deaf Children's Society says that deaf children in residential schools risk becoming emotionally disturbed unless local authorities pay fares to unite them with families at weekends.

There are emotional dangers in leaving a deaf child at school for long periods because it usually needs more love and attention than a normal child, the society says.



The choir of the National Children's Home, Harpenden, warming up for "A Stocking Full of Stars" which BBC television will relay live tomorrow from the home.

## Christmas gifts 'are no cure for loneliness'

By Diana Geddes

On Christmas Day thousands of old people will receive more attention than at any other time of the year. Mr David Hobman, director of Age Concern, says today. But it is a sad indictment of society if people really think loneliness can be cured by a Christmas pudding or a gift of talcum powder.

Mr Hobman was commenting on a report, published today by Age Concern, which maintains that many old people are leading miserable and pathetic lives because of lack of social contacts. The report suggests that short-term responses, such as social visiting, may be little more than a form of first-aid.

Of about a hundred old people interviewed, almost half were found to have two or less "significant relationships" — for example with family, friends and others who had some personal relationship with them. Only 15 per cent had more than four such relationships.

The authors of the report, Professor Roger Hadley, Professor of Social Administration at Lancaster University, and Mr Adrian Webb, research secretary of the Personal Social Services Council, point out that all the old people they interviewed had been referred to them by a voluntary agency, Task Force, and were therefore probably an atypical group.

But the isolation and loneliness felt by that very high risk group differed from that felt among old people in general only in its degree of severity, they conclude.

At present, the provision of services for isolated and lonely old people was largely piecemeal, the authors say. Local authorities provided support in some crises, but were either un-informed about the old people's further needs or had not enough staff to provide additional help.

The gaps that remained were left to voluntary agencies to fill. Most of the agencies "probably meet this demand on their services with the uneven response which characterized Task Force."

A more integrated system of care is needed, the authors say. They suggest that local authority social service departments should accept overall responsibility for the isolated and lonely, while letting voluntary services continue with their valuable informal caring work.

Loneliness, Social Isolation and Old People, Roger Hadley and Adrian Webb, Age Concern, 50 Piccadilly Road, Mitcham, Surrey, 20p.

## Mr Wilson to rebuke dissenting whip

By Our Political Staff

No 10 Downing Street confirmed yesterday that the Prime Minister, before he leaves to spend Christmas Day at Chequers, will rebuke Mr Walter Johnson, an assistant whip for dissenting in the Government's decision to approve increases in top salaries last Friday.

Mr Johnson intends to remind Mr Johnson that he holds office in the Administration and must not therefore consider himself free to dissociate himself from government policies and decisions.

Mr Johnson, who sits for Derby, South, must also expect to be reprimanded by Mr Melish, the Government Chief Whip, who only a week ago offered his resignation to Mr Johnson after the latter had defied a three-line whip at the end of the Commons debate on defence cuts.

Mr Johnson's show of independence, indeed, undercuts Mr Melish's point: one lapse of party discipline that goes unreprimanded will produce other lapses.

The Labour squall over top salaries continued to build up yesterday. Mr Norman Atkinson, a former chairman of the Tribune group, appeared on Independent Television News's First Report to condemn both the government decision to accept most of the Boyle review body's recommendations and the manner in which the report and the decision were slipped out only a few minutes before Parliament dispersed for the Christmas recess.

"Sliding things through on the blind side," Mr Atkinson described the method of publication. "It is something we shall have to put right before long. All governments have done this, particularly just prior to a recess."

He added that Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, was also wrong quietly to slip through some criticism of himself on giving £3.9m aid to the IPD industrial cooperative at Kirby, Liverpool, against the judgement of his senior industrial advisers.

On increases for the top salaried, Mr Atkinson commented that the Government was now getting near to offering a thousand pounds a week for people in top positions. That was happening at a time of galloping inflation, and at a time when there was a correct tendency to start closing the gap between earnings of the top brass of industry and the manual workers.

The need was to allocate the proportions correctly so that people did not have a sense of injustice. Society would be distorted if the country paid £1,000 a week to people at the top and £1,000 a year to people at the bottom.

Nevertheless, the Labour Party, and left-wingers like himself, had to come to grips with the fact that certain people, including hospital consultants and miners as examples, had to be paid a lot more than others. If the country was losing some of its best doctors, "then we have to be prepared to pay over the odds — much more than some chairmen of the nationalised boards, for instance."

But Mr Atkinson defended the decision, announced last Thursday, to refer MPs' pay to the Boyle review body on top salaries. "I have mixed feelings about this," he admitted. "There is no other job in the world where a person has to buy his own typewriter ribbon. If we want an MP to be full time, we want him to do a decent job and improve our whole concept of democracy, then we ought to say 'here's a bob or two to pay for doing the job and doing it decently.'"

## Council in lash over wanslea's round

Wanslea City Council decided yesterday to buy the Vetch field, home of the city's football club, for £200,000. The money includes £50,000 for the ground and £150,000 in grants to the club.

The decision, backed by the Conservative and Independent councillors, was made at the end of a long debate. Mr Terence Thomas, a Conservative, made a formal notice that he would seek a High Court injunction to halt the purchase.

Mr Gerald Murphy, Labour councillor of the council, said that the City Football Club was in financial difficulties. An approach had been made to the council to ask whether it could help to keep the club alive in the city. "We are very concerned that the prestige of the city football club should be maintained," he said. "If we lose this stadium, we shall lose all sorts of internal matches."

## ation energy d food, shop says

Bishop of London, Dr David Ellison, declared yesterday that essential food and the use of energy will be rationed.

In his Christmas letter to dioceses, he said: "If we are at war with inflation, then we should recognizably be on a footing and accept the sacrifices which that entails." "Food subsidies were not the way to keep down food prices, since the nation was idling rich and poor alike, and petrol price increases would make no difference to rich and would fall hardest on professional people, like the clergy, who need their cars for work, and who will have to pay these new very high prices." "The reasonable solution is to introduce rationing of essential food stuffs and the use of energy."

## op birth rate is in low-population area

Staff Reporter  
The birth rate in the United Kingdom last year, yet the rates for marriage and divorce. The North-west of England topped the list, with 11.1 babies per 1,000 live births, followed by the South-east, with 10.5 babies per 1,000 live births. The lowest rates were in the North-east, with 9.8 babies per 1,000 live births.

East Anglia has the lowest average gross weekly earnings outside Northern Ireland, £38.30 compared with £45.10 in the South-east, the highest. Yet East Anglians have the most cars, 66 per cent of all households owning at least one car, compared with 54 per cent in the United Kingdom as a whole, and only 42 per cent in the North.

Housing in Northern Ireland, although by no means the best, is the cheapest in the country. The average home mortgaged through a building society in 1973 was £6,181, less than half the £12,478 average cost in the South-east. A Northern Ireland household spends only 8 per cent of its total weekly budget on housing, compared with the 12 per cent in the South-east.

## BBC head's warning of threat to services

By a Staff Reporter

If there is a significant difference between the licence fee the BBC needs and what it eventually gets, the changes in services that would follow would represent a reversal of decisions deliberately taken by the corporation over the years about the development of BBC broadcasting.

That warning is given by the BBC's director-general, Sir Charles Curran, in a Christmas message to the staff newspaper, *Arise*.

"I believe," he writes, "that the BBC is in a position where it will be taken by the Government, even if their precise nature means that we shall have to offer less to the public than we should have hoped."

Sir Charles also answers criticisms made about BBC spending. Out of 56,000 artists employed in any one year, 97 per cent earn less than £2,000 a year; some said that was too little, and Sir Charles says he would be inclined to agree if that was their only source of income. "Certainly the evidence is not of lavish disbursement of public money."

It was right, if the nation was in economic stress, for the BBC to take its share, and the recent cuts in services were a demonstration of that point. "We never stop looking for savings through efficiency. But we do not intend to sacrifice quality. It would be a poor argument to ask the public to pay more for a poorer product, and for less of it."

What was being criticized was the BBC's capacity to offer real choice, and he did not think those critics needed to be taken too seriously.

Sir Charles denied a recent report that the BBC had hired an RAF airfield "at great expense" as a set to put the name

of Shirley Bassey, the singer, in lights. "What we actually paid for that was £25 to the RAF Benevolent Fund," he said.

Programme cuts: Cuts in late night and afternoon television programmes, brought about by the BBC's financial crisis, will begin on Sunday, January 5.

Both BBC1 and BBC2 will be off the air by about 11.30 pm from Sunday to Thursday. It is hoped to save £1m by pruning 15 to 20 hours a week of television programmes. It is not known how long the early closure on television will last.

## Police praise victim who tricked thieves

When a toolbox was taken from his car, a college lecturer, Mr Clive Davies, advertised in a shop window for a toolbox. He made a citizen's arrest when two men offered to sell him the box stolen from his car.

At Exeter magistrates' court yesterday, Peter Barry Thorpe, aged 27, a roof tiler, of Laburnum Road, Exeter, and his nephew, Brian Ivor Thorpe, aged 19, a laboratory assistant, of Burnhouse Lane, Exeter, pleaded guilty to stealing a metal toolbox and tools belonging to Mr Davies, of Earl Richards Road, Exeter.

Both were fined £40 after admitting another toolbox theft. Later, yesterday, Det. Chief Supt. Proven Sharpe, head of Devon and Cornwall CID, said: "This was smart detective work, just the kind of cooperation we are seeking."

Outside the court Mr Davies said he used his former address after advertising: "Two young men came in carrying my toolbox. I said: 'These are stolen goods and I am going to arrest you under the Citizen's Arrest Act. I am going to telephone for a police car.'"

Later the police told me they had never heard of an arrest like this. At the police station they jokingly referred to me as Det. Constable Davies."

## Lord Moyle of Llanidloes dies aged 80

Lord Moyle, of Llanidloes, died at his home yesterday. He was aged 80. As Mr Arthur Moyle, he was Labour MP for Southbridge from 1945 to 1950 and represented Oldbury and Halesowen from 1950 to 1964. He was Parliamentary Private Secretary to Lord Attlee when he was Prime Minister and later Leader of the Opposition from 1946 to 1955. Lord Moyle was created a life peer in 1966.

He piloted three private members' Bills through Westminster, on fireworks, slaughtering and children in divorce.

## Striker fined for throwing stone

John Ellis, aged 56, a strike picket, who threw a stone at a lorry that got through a picket line, was fined £25 at Hull Magistrates' Court yesterday for threatening behaviour.

Mr Ellis told the court: "It was frustration."

## Drive against mastitis

After three years of local surveys the Milk Marketing Board has launched a large-scale campaign against mastitis, a bacterial infection that may reduce the milk output of a cow by a tenth.



ADVERTISEMENT

# Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Iraq

The Government of the Republic of Iraq have revealed, on several occasions, the acts of aggression engaged in by the Government of Iran against Iraq, and the numerous continued attempts, on the part of that Government, against the sovereignty of Iraq over all its territories, after the unilateral abrogation by Iran of the Shatt Al-Arab 1937 agreement.

It has been noticed that such acts of aggression against the borders of Iraq tended to increase and become wider in scope whenever the Government of Iraq achieved further successes in their efforts to implement the Autonomy Law in the northern region of the country and bring about the final suppression of the outlaw hiring faction.

On all such occasions, the Iraqi Government made it clear that interference by the Government of Iran in Iraq's internal affairs and aggression by that Government against Iraq's borders are in reality acts of aggression and interference committed by American colonialism, that is to say that such acts, in the last analysis, are but part and parcel of the overall activity engaged in by the United States of America throughout the area for the achievement of the objectives of its well-known policy of aggression.

However, the situation has now developed into a new phase through widening the scope of military interference and the use of new types of sophisticated weapons by the Government of Iran, which have resulted in the incidents referred to by the communiqué issued by the Iraqi General Staff on the 16th of this month.

The above incidents have escalated the interference in Iraq's internal affairs and the aggression against its territories, population and armed forces to a new level which cannot be allowed to pass unheeded.

The interference by the Government of Iran, with the support of the United States of America, in the internal affairs of Iraq constitutes a complete example of the breaking of international law, the United Nations Charter and disregard of the basic principles of international relations which are based on respect for the sovereignty of states and non-interference in their internal affairs.

Such a situation cannot but lead to upheaval in international relations, constitute a threat to peace and create conditions that are conducive to armed conflicts.

The situation arising from the above interference on its new level cannot be considered but grave, and deserving the full attention of the world community.

The Iraqi Government, who have always sought to solve difficulties with the Government of Iran through negotiations must make it clear to all concerned that the new situation cannot be overlooked and that the Iraqi Government will stand firm to protect national sovereignty and repulse aggression against the country.

In declaring this, the Iraqi Government turn to the peoples and governments of the Arab Homeland, pointing out that the acts engaged in by the Government of Iran with the support of the United States of America are linked with the overall hostile activity of colonialism in the Arab World, and that, as such, those activities call for watchfulness and caution.

The Iraqi Government also urges the world community to watch this grave critical situation and keep in mind the collective responsibility for safeguarding peace and security in the world.

The Government of Iran and those standing behind them will bear in the end the responsibility of the consequences which will ensue from this grave situation.

December 17th, 1974

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## WEST EUROPE AND OVERSEAS

### The Pope takes risk in carrying on Holy Year tradition

From Peter Nichols  
Rome, Dec 23

Shortly before midnight tomorrow night the Pope will symbolically strike the holy door of St Peter's three times with a golden hammer under the brilliant light of television arc lamps. He will do so not only to open the door itself but also to open the twenty-fifth Holy Year of the Catholic church.

The Pope's action will signal a great gamble. Holy Years are inclined to arouse many kinds of doubts. The first Holy Year was probably the most impressive. In 1300 the energetic and highly ambitious Boniface instituted what was to become a regular element in Catholic life very remotely based (if indeed at all, more than in name) on Mosaic tradition.

Boniface has been described as "eager for glory" and a majestic, imposing and alone could fairly have pretensions aspect has remained as part of subsequent Holy Years.

This is one reason why there has been criticism of Pope Paul's decision to carry on the tradition in much the same way as in the past.

There has also been reason to suspect that the Pope himself had doubts at one time about the wisdom of continuing a custom so vulnerable to attack by modern-minded Christians.

Those who wish the Holy Year well are in effect wishing Pope Paul an imposing and successful crowning of his reign. A failure would be extremely painful for him, and a success would help him over the periods of pessimism which frequently afflict him.

It is not that the Pope to call a Holy Year, with its great influx of pilgrims, when the Eternal City was in no fit shape to receive them. But no pope will have placed so huge a strain on an already sorely tried city.

Rome has long problems with housing, traffic, health and public transport as well as a thriving criminal life, inflation and

a municipality loaded with debts.

No one appears to know how many pilgrims can be expected; estimates vary from three to eight million. An indication of the strain they will place on Rome's already overburdened streets is the estimate that on days expected to attract the biggest number of pilgrims there will be 1,000 additional tourist coaches and 15,000 more motor cars than usual.

Conservationists say the city will not have enough water, that it will suffer increased pollution of the atmosphere, and cause a dangerous sewage problem because of the lack of cleansing plants.

They say the city's authorities have not heeded the Pope's own plea that Holy Year should be marked by the disappearance of the shanty-towns and other forms of improvised housing in which up to 100,000 people are said to live.

Criticism is also heard of the Vatican's decision to use every means available to the Church to bring the greatest number of faithful to Rome. "When the Church is fully mobilized," one leading Rome personality said, "there is always trouble".

This comment simply expressed the attitude of the less uncritically zealous among practising Catholics who would have preferred to see the decision to come, and the means chosen to come, left to individuals without the mass element inevitably brought by official pilgrimages.

The organizers of this Holy Year, understandably, want to see a mass demonstration of loyalty, whatever the condition of the city, at a time when the Church is in serious difficulties. Well be seen as preparing pilgrims for a return not so much to the origins of the faith (which are not in Rome) but to the origins of authority.

The Pope himself regularly insists on his authority as Peter's successor which he sees in no way as having been diminished by the somewhat



The Pope greeting prelates in the Vatican yesterday.

timid efforts made in the last decade, since the closing of the Second Vatican Council, to involve the bishops of the world more closely in the government of the Church and to allow a degree of decentralization.

So long as the city itself survives the strain the success of this Holy Year will depend on what the Pope himself manages to make of it. He will have a captive audience of enthusiastic faithful, but however predisposed they may be to enthusiasm, even they will want to see some justification for this huge effort on the part of the Church throughout the world. It will not be an easy event to judge.

Historically, Holy Years have their disastrous touches: old

Roman songs tell of the swarming of poor pilgrims, judging it to be a well-deserved fate. Profiteering has been a familiar side of the occasions and the Church itself has, from time to time, made no secret of the commercial advantage involved.

To be fair, however, the only conclusion so far to be drawn is that the Holy Year must be judged as it unfolds, without prejudice, but at the same time without brilliant expectations.

It could serve to prove to the world that there is a renewed interest in organized religion. But it might also show that the time is not right for a mass return to traditional behaviour and that the Pope might have done better to think beyond tradition in assessing modern needs.

Leading article, page 11

### Peace plea for Middle East and Ireland

From Our Correspondent  
Rome, Dec 23

The Pope today sent his hope for peace to Ireland, the Middle East, Vietnam and other areas of conflict in the world.

In an address to cardinals who presented him with their Christmas greetings, he said: "How much we desire that Jerusalem instead of being the object of continuing strife, may become the crossroads of a fraternal encounter for all those who believe in one God, and the symbol of peace for the people of the Holy Land and for all the peoples of the Middle East."

"To this generous and to mented region and to all the other parts of the world, where—as in Ireland, which is always dear to us and present in our thoughts—conflicts are violence continue to disturb civil harmonious living, we send our greeting of peace—a just peace that formulates an ever more deeply felt commitment, this year of spiritual renewal and reconciliation that is about to begin."

The Pope hoped that a unified Church could make a contribution to peace during Holy Year. "Mankind today, no less and perhaps even more than in other times, has need of the contribution at a time when the fading remembrance of the last conflict threatens to soften in the world the horror of war and resolutions of peace."

He went on to speak of Vietnam: "How could we not least express our anguish in the face of the difficulties that peace continually encounters either in affirming itself in those places, like Vietnam, where it has been so long, or in those places where it was finally reestablished."

The Pope said that the world was at a decisive moment. He spoke of "the senseless consequences of a culture floundering on the edge of the abyss, and of a manner of living rushing headlong into the degradation of a liberate and blind passion."

### M Chirac reassures Shah on gold price

From Our Correspondent  
Teheran, Dec 23

M Chirac, the French Prime Minister, said tonight that reports about a change in the price of gold which had circulated since the talks between President Ford and President Giscard d'Estaing in Martinique last weekend, were completely baseless. What had been done amounted only to a "reform in the central banks' accounting system".

Chirac, speaking before leaving Teheran at the end of a three-day visit, emphasized that neither France nor the United States wanted a revaluation of gold. The only change resulting from the Martinique decision would be in the balance sheets of the central banks.

Pressed on this point, M Chirac insisted that the Martinique decision would not reduce the purchasing power of the oil-producing countries. He had explained the situation to the Shah during his audience yesterday and "I think his majesty was satisfied with the explanation".

M Chirac refused repeatedly to discuss a possible devaluation of the dollar. Oil-producing countries have said that if

the dollar is devalued, they will take steps to maintain their purchasing power.

M Chirac announced that during his visit he had signed agreements with Iran for purchases amounting to \$6,000m (£2,600m). One agreement is for the supply of a colour television system.

For months there has been rivalry between France and Germany to sell Iran a colour television set. France's offer to choose France's Secam is regarded as largely political as the two systems are very similar in technical specifications.

France will build a 39-mile underground railway in Teheran. This project is said to be the biggest urban construction contract signed anywhere in the past 10 years.

Iran is to buy 25 French turbo-propellers under a contract calls for the local production of Renault cars in Iran to begin within two years.

Questioned about oil prices, M Chirac said that the present prices were considered realistic by France and that was why France was reluctant to join the international energy conference proposed by the United States.

### 40,000 'guest workers' lose Swiss jobs

From Our Correspondent  
Geneva, Dec 23

There are many worried faces among the 150,000 "seasonal" workers who have returned to their own countries, mainly Italy, Spain and Yugoslavia, during the past two weeks.

They are in the category of foreign worker authorized to stay in Switzerland no more than 10 months a year. After five consecutive years of this, they can become settled workers and are then allowed to bring their families.

This Christmas, 40,000 of those who have left will not come back. Their work contracts have not been renewed; they have no jobs to return to.

### Egyptian leaders showing will for peace

Cairo, Dec 23.—M Saougi, the French Foreign Minister, left for Paris tonight at the end of a five-day official visit to Egypt.

Before leaving he told reporters that Egyptian leaders had shown him "a will for peace", but he predicted further tension in the Middle East when the United Nations peacekeeping mandate expires next year.

The leaders he had talked with had expressed a desire that war with Israel be avoided. "I am sure the Egyptian authorities want to avoid a new use of arms," he said.—UPI

### French islanders vote for independence

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, Dec 23

France has lost the first of its autonomous overseas territories with yesterday's overwhelming vote for independence by the Comoro Islands, in the Indian Ocean.

In a record turnout yesterday, 95.56 per cent of the islanders voted to break away from France politically but to preserve some links.

The French Parliament now has six months in which to approve independence, but it faces problems. One of the islands, Mayotte, which came under French influence more than 100 years ago (long before the other three) did not really wish for independence, preferring absorption as a department of metropolitan France, like Martinique.

The second problem is the economic future of four islands situated between Madagascar and Mozambique, with 287,000 inhabitants and a standard of living reckoned to be the lowest of all France's overseas territories.

Monday, Dec 23.—Mr Ahmed Abdallah, the Prime Minister of the Comoros, today gave a warning that it would be unrealistic to expect immediate independence.

### Portugal seeks to resume links with Africa

From Our Correspondent  
Lisbon, Dec 23

Dr Mario Soares, the Portuguese Foreign Minister, left Lisbon today for a fortnight's goodwill tour which will include India, Somaliland, Russia, Yugoslavia and Romania.

In Somaliland he is expected to ask President Siad Barre, who is also president of the Organization of African Unity, to press the OAU to lift the embargo on its members' diplomatic relations with Portugal.

In India Dr Soares will sign economic, trade and cultural

### Developing nations united in approach to EEC

From Rome, Berthoud  
Brussels, Dec 23

The remarkable cohesion of the 46 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries negotiating a new trade and aid agreement with the EEC has not cracked at the eleventh hour.

This is the first time the ACP countries have met in Brussels for the final ministerial consultations of the ACP countries in Dakar, Senegal, at the end of last week. Any cracks in ACP solidarity might have made the task of reaching a final agreement more difficult.

Mr Babacar Ba, the Senegalese Finance Minister, and acting president of the group, has already been in touch by telephone with Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Irish Foreign Minister, to fix a date for the concluding round of negotiations with the Nine at ministerial level. Dr FitzGerald takes over the presidency of the EEC's Council of Ministers from the French on January 1.

January 13 and 14 are seen as the likeliest dates and Brussels the likely venue. Kenya's suggestion in Dakar that the meeting be held in Nairobi is considered impractical.

The long communiqué issued at the end of the Dakar meeting shows no softening of the

ACP position on the outstanding issues: the stabilization of export receipts, financial aid and sugar.

The 46 are still insisting the funds paid over by the EEC compensate for a slump in export earnings from 1973. They also want a 10 per cent increase in aid totalling 8,000 million account (about £4,000m) over five years while the EEC on sugar they still regard EEC's price offer as unsatisfactory low.

This problem is unlikely be resolved until the summer. Community sources refer to the offer to guarantee developing country production of the same price as paid to EEC producers simply guarantee an index minimum price, leaving them wholly free to negotiate a much higher price, where which they would, seems, rather be spared.

The continuing fall in world sugar prices is likely strengthen the hand of EEC in the final negotiations.

### Avalanche slop at Kitzbuhel 'not roped off'

Innsbruck, Dec 23.—Robert Braunias, head of official inquiry into Saturday's disaster in Kitzbuhel today, disputed statements that the nine skiers who died were in a zone clearly marked as dangerous.

He said that many skiers told him that the slope had been roped off. It was only as he experienced skiers added.

Thirteen Austrians and 16 Germans were caught in avalanche and only four were pulled clear.—Reuter

## S Africans baffled by apartheid complexities

From Michael Kaipe  
Cape Town, Dec 23

Race regulations have grown so complex and contradictory in South Africa that with Christmas festivities approaching their peak newspapers are publishing guides as to what forms of multi-racial mixing are allowed.

There is minimal interracial contact at a social level in the republic and few people are aware of what they may, or may not, do legally. Those who are anxious to act upon the government's stated intention of abolishing discrimination are finding it no easy task.

It is legal, for instance, at a private party for people classified as White, Coloured or Indian, to serve alcoholic liquor to guests of any people of the same three racial groups but not to people classified as African. Only soft drinks may be served to Africans. However, an employer is entitled to supply liquor to his African employees. Farmers, for instance, provide daily tot of wine for their farm labourers in lieu of additional wages—a practice which is strongly criticized in liberal quarters.

Africans may buy alcohol from liquor stores and restaurants which are racially segregated—and they

may take the liquor to a multi-racial party and serve themselves from their own supply. However, legal sources point out that in the event of a police raid it might be difficult to prove that Africans had brought their own liquor.

In special circumstances it is possible to surmount the ban on serving Africans alcoholic liquor by applying for a special permit from the Department of Bantu Administration and Development.

If a party, or gathering, is not private, Coloureds and Asians may attend only if a permit is acquired from the Department of Community Development. If Africans are expected also a second permit is required from the Department of Bantu Administration and Development.

Some social events are allowed to be multi-racial—Bazaars, fairs, cake sales, markets and jumble sales. The all-important proviso for these events is that there must be no side shows or other forms of entertainment. Whites, Coloureds and Asians who are invited to an African's home require a permit to attend.

Although foreign blacks are given honorary white status in most five-star hotels in South Africa, there is considerable confusion over whether they may dance as well as eat and drink at such places. Special permits have to be obtained if a white wishes to entertain a black South African even to lunch or dinner and again it is no simple task.

A Johannesburg Sunday Express reporter who attempted to take a black South African school teacher to a hotel restaurant reported today that a special permit was required and that restaurant managers warned that after a wait of several days the permit might be refused without reason. One restaurant manager said he had found it impossible, during the festive season, to obtain permits to allow blacks to use the facilities.

Three leading hotels—the President, the Carlton and the Landmark—each refused permission for the reporter to entertain a black South African guest without the permit.

The reporter asked the National Liquor Board how to get a permit and was told: "You must have a good reason. Friendship is not enough. If it has something to do with intellectual pursuits or a business prize award you've got a chance."

The spokesman added: "Liquor may be served but dancing is strictly forbidden." The procedure to obtain the necessary permit is that the hotel has to apply to the secretary of the Liquor Board stating in a letter the name and address of the "non-white", the reason for the occasion and the number of whites and "non-white" guests.

In addition, permission must be sought from the chief magistrate if the guest is an African or from the Department of Community Development if the guest is Indian or Coloured.

Commenting on the difficulties, Mr Punt Janson, the deputy minister of Bantu Affairs, hinted that in the future it might become easier. Mr Janson has been the leading member of the Government pressing for a liberalization of discriminatory regulations. A parliamentary select committee is preparing a liquor law amendment Act for the next parliamentary session and may propose reforms to the discriminatory statutes.

Meanwhile most Christmas parties in South Africa will be whites-only affairs and the few with blacks in attendance will in all probability be talking a chance with the law.

### Rome shops hit by drop in Christmas sales

From Our Own Correspondent  
Rome, Dec 23

Shopkeepers in Rome worried by the sharp drop in Christmas sales this year have resorted to a desperate tactic of offering 90 per cent off for greeting cards and up to 50 per cent for clothes.

Their association states that as a result thousands of shops and businesses are facing "serious and immediate" consequences.

Sales of furniture and linings are down by 20 per cent, of furs by between 40 and 50 per cent and household appliances are selling at one half of last year's rate.

### Spain recognize political parties

Madrid, Dec 23.—A Bill giving Spaniards a limited right of political association for the first time in the 35 years of Franco regime became law today.

It gives Spaniards over "the right to associate themselves freely for political action". It attaches no strings to the right, however



## OVERSEAS

## Holy Land waits apprehensively for Christmas marked by gloom, fear and austerity

From Eric Marsden  
Bethlehem, Dec. 23

From almost every angle it looks like being a harsh, bitter Christmas in the Holy Land. The belief that another year is looming, the constant danger of terrorism, economic hardships caused by Israel's emergency measures and the continuing blight on tourism have all depressed the festive spirit.

There has also been a deterioration in everyday relations not only between Jews and Arabs but between Arab and non-Arab Christians, who are deeply divided over the fate of Monsignor Hilarion Capucci, the Greek Catholic Archbishop of Jerusalem, starting a 12-year prison sentence for aiding terrorists. The spectacle of an archbishop on hunger strike at Christmas is one which disturbs most Christians, in different ways.

Not all this turmoil shows on the surface. The Israelis, though driven near to xenophobia by the ordeals of the past year, which has seen them almost totally isolated from the world community, are maintaining their scrupulous observance of the usual courtesies. Christmas trees are being distributed free in Christians by the Jewish National Fund; Jerusalem's mayor, Mr. Teddy Kolek, gave his customary joint party to religious leaders of Judaism, Islam and Christianity; and here in Bethlehem the West Bank military government has helped provide the coloured lights, piped music and closed circuit television so that the crowd in Manger Square will see the midnight mass in the Church of the Nativity.

The warning by the Palestine Liberation Organization (P.L.O.), indicating that it regards Christmas pilgrims and tourists as fair game for attack, has caused widespread shock. The Vice-General of the Anglican Church, the Rev. Robert Stopford (former Bishop of London) described it today as "wholly deplorable".

It was, he said, utterly wrong to make tourists targets for terrorism and he was sure this was not supported by the people.

Security will be even more intensive than usual in Bethlehem and church authorities have been informed of the special measures taken by the military government to prevent infiltration. But it may be impossible to prevent isolated incidents such as that on the Jericho road on Sunday, when a tourist bus was attacked.

Troops will patrol the route of the procession led by the Latin Patriarch, Monsignor Giacomo Beltritti, from Jerusalem to the Church of the Nativity. Others will stand guard with automatic weapons on the roof of the church.

Terrorist deterrence of tourism is an additional blow to the stricken innkeepers and souvenir sellers, who have been doing this business since Easter. Several hotels in Jerusalem are closed; others have between a dozen and 30 guests and have had to lay off staff.

In Bethlehem the mayor says: "This will be one of the hardest Christmas we have had." Many Arabs profess vocally that the hardship and trouble are worthwhile for the eighth Christmas under Israel occupation proves to be the last.

In spite of anxiety over continued indiscriminate terrorism, there has been no weakening of support for the P.L.O. in the West Bank. Arab leaders have become bolder, even defiant, in their political statements. Political protests, officially forbidden, have been made against the deportations of West Bank leaders. Bethlehem council has publicly stated that the town rejects plans by Israel leaders seeking to absorb it within Jerusalem's jurisdiction.

The Capucci affair has generated an ugly atmosphere which could fill the future. Although the archbishop was plainly guilty of gun-smuggling, no Arab leader of

churchmen has criticized his actions.

Both Arabs and Israelis have blind spots concerning terror and counter-terror. Decent ordinary Arabs I have known for years refuse to show any remorse for the deliberate killing of women and children by terrorists. Israelis are equally unmoved by civilian deaths in their bombing attacks on refugee camps in Lebanon.

When a delegation of church dignitaries visited the Religious Affairs Minister, Mr. Yitzhak Rabin, to plead for Monsignor Capucci's release, he said he was "stunned by their failure to express any regret or to condemn the archbishop's actions". So are many of the foreign, non-Arab clergy long resident in Jerusalem.

A wave of pro-Israel sympathy has been stirred, though, today an American Episcopalian, Father Malcolm Boyd, was conducting an informal inter-denominational service at the Walling Wall in recognition of Jesus as a Jew.

The Vatican has not so far made a decision on whether to support the demand for Monsignor Capucci's release, nor has it expressed direct regrets at his offence. The affair is an acute embarrassment for the Pope on the eve of his declaration of Holy Year.

Israel shows no sign of relenting and agreeing to deport the archbishop, an action which would cause a domestic storm. More Israelis are celebrating Christmas these days, fervently or otherwise. They include many immigrants from Britain and America, nostalgic for the Yuletide spirit they enjoyed back home. But in East Jerusalem small plastic trees are on offer at £4 each; a single bell-shaped decoration costs £2; and a rare imported pudding from Britain weighing 1lb 14oz is also priced at £2. The loss of Christmas is just one part of the difficult adjustment that many immigrants face here.

## Report on CIA spying ordered by Mr Ford

From Fred Emery  
Washington, Dec. 23

President Ford today ordered Dr. Kissinger to report to him "within a matter of days" on newspaper allegations that the Central Intelligence Agency conducted mass illegal spying in the United States during the Nixon years. The CIA is authorized only to operate abroad.

The announcement of the President's concern came from his press secretary at Vail, Colorado, where Mr. Ford is on a working-skiing holiday. He said the Secretary of State was being instructed to investigate the reports in his capacity as staff director of the National Security Council, which coordinates all intelligence activity.

Mr. Ford, reacting for the second day running to the disclosures in *The New York Times*, clearly hoped to head off mounting congressional demands for heads to roll. He also wished to insist on perspective, to remind Americans that newspaper reports were not necessarily facts, and to deny an Associated Press report that the Justice Department was already involved in considering prosecutions.

A Justice Department spokesman, however, insisted they had the matter "under review". At the State Department, Dr. Kissinger's spokesman had earlier denied that the Secretary of State had ever heard about the CIA's domestic spying, before the newspaper's disclosures. Since 1969 Dr. Kissinger has been assistant to the President for national security, and thus in a position to keep an eye on the CIA for President Nixon during the years when spying is alleged to have been conducted. But his spokesman was adamant today. The Secretary has never seen any reports of surveillance of American citizens by the CIA, he said.

There has been no link suggested between the CIA spying and the dubious wire-tapping of press correspondents



Mr Ford ends a good day's skiing: His bodyguard, however, are reported "mediocre" on skis.

and White House staff, conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in which Dr. Kissinger was a willing partner.

At the CIA headquarters today they were content to try to "tough it out" and say no more.

The CIA's chief spokesman agreed that the allegations by *The New York Times* had been discussed at the regular departmental meeting held this morning by Mr. William Colby, the CIA director. But he discounted reports that there was anything special about the meeting.

He was content to let President Ford's statement stand. Yesterday Mr. Ford said he would not tolerate such activities, and told reporters that he had Mr. Colby's assurance that "nothing comparable" was still being conducted. Elsewhere, various congressmen were reacting with predictable indignation. Senator

William Proxmire called for the head of Mr. Richard Helms, CIA director during the offending years.

Against this, Mr. Ray Cline, former chief of the CIA intelligence division, was reported by the *Washington Post* as discounting the report as "a pathetic little gossipy story".

Mr. John McCone, who preceded Mr. Helms as CIA director, called for a full congressional or presidential investigation of the charges.

A Christmas footnote to the story is that the chief CIA spokesman was kneeling at prayer in his local church yesterday morning when his electronic buzzer went off loudly. He was being summoned by his office to take a telephone inquiry. It was Reuters in Washington warning a reaction. "Holy cow, I nearly fell through the pew," he said to

day. The vicar had remarked to him after the service that he had wondered whether it was "a short circuit in someone's hearing aid".

In a way, it was. Mr. Joseph Alsop, the columnist, who is about to retire, wrote today that President Ford "considers there is a horribly high chance of renewed war in the Middle East within hardly more than a year".

Reporting a conversation at a farewell lunch given to him by Mr. Ford a week ago, he said the President foresaw "every kind of shocking consequence" from such a war, ranging from another oil embargo "to the emergence of a measure of serious anti-Semitism" in the United States. In the event of Soviet intervention in a war, the President "plainly feels our military intervention cannot be excluded".

## Kissinger optimism on foreign policy

Washington, Dec. 23

Dr. Henry Kissinger, the Secretary of State, in wide-ranging interviews is delivering assured and relatively optimistic analyses of the world situation. Whether or not, as some intimates suggest, he is deliberately covering his true feelings of deep pessimism and dismay, the fact is that in his latest public statement in today's *Newsweek* magazine he speaks of "a growing realization that the political demoralization of the industrialized countries must be arrested".

He therefore asserts he is "not pessimistic" about Middle East negotiations. Indeed, he believes "it looks far more encouraging than it did" during last spring's Golan Heights disengagement talks. "I am in fact quite hopeful," he said.

Likewise, next to the SALT (strategic arms limitation) agreements, he gives greatest emphasis to the achievement among the Western industrialized countries of common approaches to oil diplomacy. Instead of the apocalypse he has sometimes invoked, he suggests that what is currently being pursued "may be the beginning of a restructuring of relationships" in the West.

He promises that very shortly President Ford will announce strong American energy conservation measures.

Dr. Kissinger is also conciliatory towards Congress in insisting he is determined to go "to the absolute limit of maintaining foreign policy on a bipartisan basis". Dr. Kissinger for the first time rules out American support for negotiating with the Palestine Liberation Organization (P.L.O.). Asked how long he would serve in his post, he agreed that the timing of departure was difficult. "Most people are carried out instead of walking out. I have no itch to leave. But I also have no compulsion to stay. The last words should be taken with an enormous dose of real salt."

## Seven British servicemen missing at sea

Hongkong, Dec. 23.—The marine authorities here fear for the safety of seven Hongkong-based British servicemen missing for three weeks on a cruise to the colony from Bangkok.

This afternoon they issued a radio message requesting shipping in the South China Sea to help look for the topsail boat, the *Russane*. The boat had not been heard from since December when an American warship reported sighting it some 200 miles south-east of Saigon in an area which has been hit by phosgene since early this month. The *Russane* was last seen sailing towards the Paracels, a group of islands in the South China Sea which a Chinese amphibious force took possession of last spring.

A military spokesman said a military spokesman crewing the *Russane* belong to the Royal Artillery. He named them: Major Geoffrey Ransby, inner George Sears, from inner Hempstead, Hertfordshire; inner David Runt, from inner Bedfordshire; inner Michael Briggs, from inner Kent; Sergeant Michael Seabrook, from inner Middlesex; Lieutenant ke Vacher, from inner Bridgewater; inner Colonel Myles Hughes, from inner Amersham.

## ail teacher is Jan member

New York, Dec. 23.—A white teacher at a predominantly black prison in Pine Bluff, New York, has been suspended after the discovery that he is a leading member of the Klu Klux Klan. Charges are brought against him by the State. He is Mr. Earl Soles, 40, who has made no attempt to deny his Klan membership, saying that he is the Grand Dragon of the local branch. He is used of bringing Klan material into the prison.

## Dilemma of Japanese Premier

in Peter Hazelhurst  
yo, Dec. 23

Attempts by the new Prime Minister, Mr. Takeo Miki, to re-establish the tarnished image of the Liberal Democratic Party by dissociating it from the rest of Japan's powerful industrial houses, have only led in splitting the hierarchy two again and annoying leaders of industry and commerce.

The concern of the large trading houses, which have controlling interests over the entire spectrum of business—from the aerospace industry down to hamburger stands—is not hard to appreciate. In the first place the Fair Trade Commission, led by Mr. Kakuei Tanaka, who was closely associated with the interests of big business. The draft Bill caused a furore in business circles and it has been vehemently opposed by the Federation of Economic Organizations.

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## £20m British interest-free loan for Pakistan

From Our Correspondent  
Rawalpindi, Dec. 23

Sir Laurence Humphrey, the British Ambassador to Pakistan, today signed an aid agreement under which Pakistan will receive a £20m interest-free loan, repayable in 25 years with a seven-year grace period. The project is to be financed out of the loan of the subject of negotiations between the British and Pakistan Governments.

Today's agreement provided the biggest single loan agreement for project aid in many years. The last project loan was made during the 1960s for railway electrification, although some commodity aid has been offered since.

Mr. Rafi Raza, the Pakistan Minister for Industries and Production, leaving for London on December 25, to negotiate additional Russian aid for the country's first steel mill at Karachi. This is being built largely with Russian aid.

## Russian Jews make plea for prisoners

Moscow, Dec. 23.—Unmolested by a small number of watching policemen, some 45 Jews presented a petition to the Supreme Soviet today asking for the release of 40 "prisoners of Zion" from Soviet jails and labour camps.

The petition, bearing about 300 signatures, coincided with the fourth anniversary of sentencing in Leningrad of 11 people, mostly Jews, who tried to hijack an airliner. Although the KGB security police had said the presentation of the petition would be considered a "provocation", they made no attempt to intervene when the group went to the Parliament reception building and handed to a clerk a letter addressed to President Podgorny.—UPI.

## Zaire defends removal of crucifixes

Kinshasa, Dec. 23.—The Zaire Government has rejected charges that the removal of crucifixes by portraits of President Mobutu is anti-religious. Mr. Sakombi Ilunga, political and national guidance commissioner, told the press: "There will be no religious war in Zaire. It is a lay state."

He said that by insisting that all places open to the public only the portrait of President Mobutu should be exposed, the authorities were trying to fight against "a form of mental alienation". This consisted in "placing in our university faculties and higher teaching institutions, in our schools, dispensaries, hospitals and social centres, crucifixes, portraits of popes or photographs of certain foreign personalities".

hoarding of essential commodities, fixing prices and evasion of taxes—led to a rapid decline in the popularity of the Liberal Democrats.

As a result, Mr. Miki, who promised the country a clean and honest administration when he assumed office only two weeks ago, revived the Bill to tighten up anti-monopoly regulations.

It is obvious that many conservatives within the ruling party oppose Mr. Miki's attempts to give the Fair Trade Commission sweeping powers. On the other hand, adverse reaction to suggestions that the Bill will be watered down has apparently shaken the Government. Even the conservative *Mainichi Daily News* criticized attempts by pro-business factions within the ruling party to shelve the proposed Bill. "It seems that the Government and the Liberal Democratic Party are ready to ignore the vital questions raised by the Fair Trade Commission's draft concerning a number of dangerous pitfalls which exist in the nation's economic system today, such as monopolistic controls in the industrial and business fields which are dominated by oligopolistic corporations, and the increasing trend among large corporations to hold stocks of other companies, which is seriously hampering fair competition in various fields," the newspaper said today.

## Greetings to you from the friends of Outset

Tim and Frances Aldington-Smyth  
of Chiswick, W.4.

Lord and Lady Armstrong  
of Knightsbridge, S.W.7.

Mr and Mrs Alec Badenoch  
and family  
of London, W.1.

Mr and Mrs Peter Bennett  
of Kensington, W.8.

Nicholas and Rosalind Blake  
of Clapham, London.

Mr and Mrs Richard Briers,  
Katy and Lucy  
of Chiswick, W.4.

Broadway School  
of Broadway, Cheshire.

C.P.A.G.  
of Macton St., London, W.1.

Hélène Propper de Callejoa  
of London, S.W.3.

Toni and Lionel Citroën  
of Esher, Surrey.

Ray Cooney  
of London, W.C.2.

Mr and Mrs A. R. Cottrell  
of West Didsbury, Manchester.

Michael Densham  
of Ealing, W.13.

Ron Dick  
of London, W.1.

Oliver Drake and Julie MacCarthy  
of Shepherd's Bush, London.

Mr and Mrs Michael Flanders  
of Bedford Park, London.

Eric and Mary Frank  
of Clifton, Bristol.

Dr Thomas Frankland,  
Chairman, Charity Consultants  
of London, W.1.

Mr and Mrs Stephen F. Frowen  
of Shamley Green,  
Nr. Guildford, Surrey.

Group Captain John and Lou Glen,  
Andrew and Ian  
of Sevenoaks, Kent.

Great Western Radiators Ltd.  
of 9-12 Brandon Rd., London, N.7.

Grevil  
of 182 Chiswick High Rd., W.4.

Halda Ltd.  
of 3-4 Brandon Rd., London, N.7.

Robin and Marika Hanbury-Tenison  
of Cardinham, Bodmin, Cornwall.

Irene Handl  
of London, W.2.

David Harrison  
of Compayne Gdns., London, N.W.6.

Peter and Rosemary Harrison  
of Hillview Court, Woking, Surrey.

The Helping Hand Co.  
(Invalid Aids)  
of Sandhurst, Kent.

Helen and Michael Housley  
of Theydon Bois, Epping, Essex.

Paul Hudson  
of Fulham, London.

Imperial Tobacco Ltd.  
of Lombard St., Bristol.

"Jesus Christ Superstar"  
at the Palace Theatre.

John Kingsbury  
of Worthing, Sussex.

Mr and Mrs John Knight  
of Wepham, Arundel, Sussex,  
and Kensington, London.

Ted and Yvonne Luff  
of Kew, Richmond.

Peter Marie Restaurant  
of 47 Gerrard St., London, W.1.

Paddy O'Connor, Deputy Whip  
Greater London Council.

The company and staff of  
"Pal Joey" and "King Stag"  
at the Northcott Theatre, Exeter.

Penguin Books Ltd.  
of Harmondsworth, Middlesex.

Daniel Plesch  
of Nottingham University and  
Ruislip, Middlesex.

"Punch and Judy" and "King  
Arthur" for kids at the Round  
House  
of Chalk Farm Road, N.W.1.

R.D.S. (Agricultural) Ltd.  
of Boundary Court, Woodchester,  
Gloucestershire, Stroud.

Steve and Marilyn Roman  
of Adelaide, South Australia.

Mr and Mrs Peter Ryan and Jane  
of Chiswick, W.4.

Andrew and Sally Scadding  
of Writtle, Chelmsford, Essex.

Harry Seacombe, C.B.E.,  
of Cheam, Surrey.

Valerie Singleton  
of London.

The company of "Sleuth"  
at the Fortune Theatre.

Mr and Mrs Lawrence Spalton  
of East Harting, Hampshire.

Stephen Spender  
of St. John's Wood, London.

Anne and Nicolas Stacey  
of Selling, Faversham, Kent.

The Steen Family,  
Stephen and Jacqueline, Anthony  
and Carolyn, Jason and Xanthe  
of London, Liverpool and  
Rustington, Sussex.

Jack Sultsberger  
of London, E.C.2.

"The Treasure Island" and "Cole"  
Companies  
at the Mermaid Theatre,  
Blackfriars, E.C.4.

Turner Studios Ltd.  
of 9-12 Brandon Road, London, N.7.

The staff of Ulverscroft Large Print  
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of Station Rd., Glenfield, Leics.

Boys and Staff of University College  
School,  
Frögnal, N.W.3.

Watco (Sales) Ltd.  
of 56 Buckingham Gate,  
London, S.W.1.

Tim and Jackie Willis  
of Broxbourne, Essex.

Anthony Young Ltd.  
26 Uxbridge Rd., Ealing,  
London, W.5.

Stephen, Sheila, Tony, Stephanie,  
John, Kathy, Sue, Ian and  
all the other OUTSET organisers  
past and present.

This year again many friends of OUTSET have given us the cost of their Christmas cards. Their greetings, in which OUTSET joins, come instead in this space — which allows us to reprint some of Michael Flander's recent BBC Appeal. It says so much more than we can.

"It was on a Monday morning the Gasman came to call! Remember Donald Swann's and my song about all the troubles that follow when 'The Gasman Cometh'?"

In these troubled times there are, unhappily, thousands of people to whom no-one ever comes. Old people, sick people, physically and mentally handicapped people; people who can't get out and who need extra help.

There is at the same time a great reservoir of capable help available; chiefly from young people. About a year ago I joined the Committee of a small but, I think, remarkable charity called OUTSET, which sets out to connect these willing volunteers with those who need help.

Under an OUTSET organiser, groups of young people work for the community as a whole. They clean up littered beaches and beauty spots — that sort of thing — and also help individuals with work about the house and garden.

In some areas, OUTSET have undertaken surveys to track down cheap housing for the

homeless. But its most important and impressive work has been its surveys on behalf of local authorities — to search out people who have a right to certain extra help under the 1970 Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act.

To put the Act into practice, a major problem had to be overcome. Many needy people are so out of touch with the world that they do not know about the new services. Of those who do, many are too shy to ask for them.

So OUTSET was invited to help. The only certain solution was to call on every single address in the County or Borough and explain the help available. Up to now OUTSET has called on more than a million and a quarter households. About 45,000 people, some in desperate need, have been put in touch with help.

Altogether OUTSET has channelled some 30,000 young people into useful and inspiring work and organised it all with a full-time salaried staff of only three — assisted by a dozen or so young people working full-time around the country.

If you, like me, feel that this practical and efficient approach to helping the old, the disabled, the whole community is something we can't do without — that OUTSET should be encouraged to carry on and expand — do please send a donation.

I would like to help OUTSET continue its community work in the coming year with this donation of £..... Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to OUTSET.

Name.....  
Address.....  
(Please use BLOCK letters)

OUTSET

30 Craven Street, London W2N 5BR. Tel. 020 4255. Reg. Charity 251699



# Appointments Vacant

## GENERAL VACANCIES

### ST. BASIL'S CENTRE (Boat Night Shelter) Birmingham

#### RESEARCH WORKER

Thanks to a grant received from the D.E.S. we are appointing a research worker to undertake a research project in the field of the emergency accommodation offered at the Boat Night Shelter.

We wish to do this by collecting as many of the young people who have used the Boat Shelter as possible, in order that the appropriate feedback can be given to St Basil's and others about their needs and the effectiveness of the service.

Salary scale would be on that of a Research Associate, i.e. £1,700-£2,500 with normal conditions of employment.

Further information, application forms, etc., available from:

The Warden, St Basil's Centre  
Healdmill Lane, Deritend  
Birmingham B9 4AX

### International Youth Exchange YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES OFFICER

The Youth and Community Services Department of the Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges, an arm of government in the educational sphere, requires a Youth and Community Services Officer to undertake a research project in the field of the emergency accommodation offered at the Boat Night Shelter.

Salary scale would be on that of a Research Associate, i.e. £1,700-£2,500 with normal conditions of employment.

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## UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

### University of Reading FIVE LECTURERSHIPS IN LAW

Applications are invited for five Lecturerships in the Faculty of Law, University of Reading. The Faculty is seeking to recruit five Lecturers in the following areas: Contract Law, Tort Law, Criminal Law, Public Law, and International Law. The successful candidates will be expected to teach and supervise research students. Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 2AA. Closing date: 15 January 1975.

## DOMESTIC SITUATIONS

Wanted: experienced housekeeper, preferably female, to cook, clean, and iron. Must be reliable and honest. Salary £2.00 per week. Apply to Mrs. J. Smith, 123 High Street, London W1. Tel: 01-234 5678.

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## CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

### DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

#### MINISTRY FOR INDUSTRY AND ENERGY Société Algérienne de Réalisations et d'Etudes Minières 4, Bd Mohamed V - ALGER

### NOTICE OF EXTENSION

Société Algérienne de Réalisations et d'Etudes Minières wishes to inform companies interested in the international invitation to tender for the supply of quarrying equipment that the period for submission of bids, initially due to expire on 12 December 1974, has now been extended to 5 January 1975.

## ALREM

### ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

Specialists specializing in the following fields:

- Civil Engineering • Mining
- Mechanical Engineering • Electronics
- Ore Treatment • Casting and Estimating

Handwritten applications with detailed curriculum vitae should be sent to:

Société Algérienne de Réalisations et d'Etudes Minières  
ALREM - 4 Bd Mohamed V - Algiers (Algeria)

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Further information, application forms, etc., available from:

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## SALE ROOMS

### at Phillips

The sale rooms will close today at 12 noon and will reopen on Monday, December 30. They will be closed on New Year's Day.

Tue., Dec. 31, 11 a.m. Good English & Continental Furniture, Works of Art, Carpets.

Thurs., Jan. 2, 10 a.m. Furniture etc. at Marlyebone.

Fri., Jan. 3, 11 a.m. Silver and Plated Ware.

Mon., Jan. 6, 11 a.m. Antique & Decorative Furniture, Works of Art, Carpets.

Mon., Jan. 6, 2 p.m. Prints.

Tue., Jan. 7, 11 a.m. Good English & Continental Furniture, Works of Art, Carpets.

Tue., Jan. 7, 2 p.m. Books.

Wed., Jan. 8, 11 a.m. Ceramics and Glass.

View 2 days prior and Cts. 25p by post unless stated. Remains the Auctioneers' right to sell.

7 Melbourn Street, New Bond Street, London W1 0AS  
Tel. 01-499 8841

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# Full Christmas viewing programmes

## Alan Blyth and Michael Ratcliffe make their selections for the holidays

### A lot of night music

The BBC's Savoy opera company assembled by Cedric Messina has for the third year running come up with a Christmas offering to warm the hearts of all but the most staid of G and S enthusiasts. Their *Yeoman of the Guard* on New Year's Day (BBC1) reminds us, under David Lloyd-Jones's sympathetic baton, what a glorious score his is, and John Corrie's direction makes no false move, unless it be the unrelenting sunlight around the too spick-and-span Tower.

Gorrie has updated it slightly to the seventeenth century, and drawn the upmost characterization from his accomplished cast without caricature or send up. The singing, as has happened before, pays Sullivan the compliment of treating him as a truly operatic composer. Valerie Masterson, with her fine Macon and Violetta behind her, puts real emotion into Elsie's attractive music and sassy partners David Hillman's cleverly equivocal Colonel Fairfax. Derek Hammond-Stroud's Jack Point manages to be at once amusing and affecting, and Denis

Wicks as Wilfred Shadbolt reads perhaps even more into the Jailer's words than is there.

For the BBC tonight Brian Large has directed a not-out-of-sentimental version of that old Christmas standby, *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (BBC2) which has Menotti's seal of approval. There is a pleasingly natural performance of the title part by young Paul Maurer (his father sings one of the kings) whose style falls happily halfway between the choirboy and Wandsworth traditions of trebles. April Cantelo is appropriately worried as the boy's Mother. A real donkey and camel jar slightly against the obviously studio-made set, but the treatment of the miracle is highly imaginative. Nicholas Braithwaite conducts.

Also tonight Janet Baker joins André Previn, under John Culshaw's production, in what looks like an unacknowledged programme, and tomorrow Harlech has gathered together some real and adopted Welshmen for the reenactment of a Victorian Christmas. In a lighter

### Spirits of Christmas present

Ghosts malignant and feeble; double doses of Gilbert and Sullivan, Dickensian extravaganzas, Dana, the Circus, Joseph Cooper, Dr. Who, Hope and Keen; remakes of *Born Free*, *The Secret Garden* and *Menotti's Amahl and the Night Visitors*; several attractive repeats, and more than 70 full-length feature films on show between December 21 and January 3, some of them masterpieces (Henry V, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Thirty-Nine Steps*, *A Night at the Opera*).

The supernatural season opened last night with two dramatizations, *The Treason of Abbot Thomas* (BBC1) and by Julian Bond of *The Ferryman* by Kingsley Amis (Granada). Mr Amis had James much in mind when writing his own ghost story *The Green Man* and he has claimed in a radio talk that he and his wife have been overtaken, James-fashion, by some of the events and characters in that book. He then admitted he was having us on and had merely been discussing a completely new Kingsley Amis story about a writer and his wife who are overtaken by *etc.* *The Ferryman*, Mr Bond's adaptation of the talk-story, was full of nice irrelevant detail and nervous tension

(Jeremy Brett played the writer, but slow to build and short on scarp-thrills until the scaring climax itself which left one adequately disturbed to receive the real stuff 90 minutes later on BBC Granada follow *The Ferryman* with *Poor Girl* (December 23), a ghost story by Elizabeth Taylor and in the New Year with the classic thriller of the London blitz, *The Doctor and the Devil* by Elizabeth Bower.

If you believe that ghosts should be either frightening or funny, then *The Canterville Ghost* (ITV, New Year's Eve) will only annoy you for it is neither. Most of Wilde's story comprises a narrative of slightly faded jokes in a style of Low Gothic camp suggesting an extra-natural encounter between Peacock and Coward, neither at their best. Rikki Miller has adopted much of this unimpressive material into soliloquies for the outraged spectre (David Niven) apparently declaiming into a tin can. It remains wordy and whimsical, and more the better for being faintly but persistently modernized—this is not the Nineties, while Mr Niven is miscast. It is impossible to imagine him doing anything incompetently, as here required, let alone indulging in dreams of a Symbolist Garden of

Death 300 years after committing a horrible crime.

Both G and S offerings are excellently cast and sung, although like their near-contemporary *Canterville*, they can dangerously convey the impression they are taking place before a second, unseen and unheeded audience, not ourselves. The rally takes ill to big choruses and burlesque, and much the most effective moments of *The Yeoman of the Guard* (BBC1, New Year's Day), apart from those afforded by Eileen Daff's very pretty and seemingly enormous set, come from the patter songs, duets, trios and quartets of Act II, much of which is done straight to camera making us feel that it is, after all, permissible to be watching.

Tonight's *Trid by Jury* (Granada) is also generously designed, by Peter Phillips, with a lovely long corridor for the whole cast to skip and caper down to the *Bab*-manner born. Norma Burrows is a devastatingly competitive Plaintiff, fighting the Defendant not merely for breach of promise, but also, and successfully, for possession of the melodic line in the *Puritani/Lucia* quartet. Charles Mackerras conducts, fast, but here allows the parody room to breathe.

The new *Amahl* tonight is the BBC's third, and first in colour, "recorded in the presence of the composer", which presumably denotes a blessing of some sort. It is excellent: the Mother is a splendid role for April Cantelo, a lively and humorous boy. Another third production, and first in colour, is *The Secret Garden* (BBC1, New Year's Day) whose first episode suggests it will be quite as gripping as Frances Hodgson Burnett's tales of tough little girls in distress so, uncanonically on the box. Also strongly recommended: *Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo* (Granada, Boxing Day afternoon), the *Flanders/Horowitz* pop cantata turned into an enchanting cartoon of the Flood by Brian Cosgrove.

Best repeats: James Macgarragh's *Allice Through the Looking Glass* (BBC 2, December 27); Kenneth Allsob's *The Wildlife of New York City* (BBC 1, December 29); Kroy and Ann Macgarragh's *Bay of Whales* (BBC 2, December 29); Benjamin and Mirzoeff's *Metro-Land* (BBC 1, January 3); Robert Muller and Peter Wood's *The Song of Songs* (BBC 2, January 3).

Michael Ratcliffe

Alan Blyth

## Today



Trial by Jury (ITV 10.20)

Are all the decorations up and the children battered down? Then relax with Gilbert and Sullivan (ITV 10.20), perhaps before the Mass of the Nativity from Rome (ITV 11.0) or Family Eucharist from Cheshire (BBC1 11.55). Alternatively Roy Hudd will recite Christmas Day in the Workhouse (BBC2 11.0). All that, however, is for the end of the day. Discerning viewers will abandon domestic affairs earlier to watch those Likely Lads (BBC1 7.45), and, if Aladdin with Peter Glaze as Widow Twankey does not transport you it will not be for the want of trying (BBC1 4.15).—L.B.

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9.00 am, Mr Benn, 9.15, Boos Cat, 9.30, The Hope and Kean, 10.05, The Languages of Animals, lecture by David Attenborough, Beware! Part 2, 10.35, Speed Buggy, 11.00, Roobarb, 11.05, Holiday Star Trek, 11.50, A Summer Friendship, 12.30, pm, News, 12.55, Pebble Mill Christmas, 1.25, The Black and White Christmas Show, 1.35, Film: National Velvet (1945), with Elizabeth Taylor, Mickey Rooney, Donald Crisp, 3.35, Diane Solomon, 4.15, Aladdin, with Michael Aspel, Jacqueline Clarke, Dana, Peter Glaze, The Goodies, Barrie Gosney, Derek Griffiths, Deryck Guyler, Jan Hunt, Don Maclean, Paul's People, Ed Stewart, Richard Wattis, 5.15, News, 5.30, Tom and Jerry, 5.40, Film: Kidnapped (1960), with Peter Finch, James MacArthur, 7.10, Dick Emery, 7.45, The Likely Lads, special Christmas edition, 8.30, Film: Ice Station Zebra (1968), with Rock Hudson, 10.50, André Previn's Christmas Music Night, 11.55-1.00 am, The Message of the Angels: Family Eucharist from St Peter's, Hale, Cheshire.

### BBC 2

11.00-11.25 am, Play School, 11.30, The Hope and Kean, 11.55, The Languages of Animals, lecture by David Attenborough, Beware! Part 2, 10.35, Speed Buggy, 11.00, Roobarb, 11.05, Holiday Star Trek, 11.50, A Summer Friendship, 12.30, pm, News, 12.55, Pebble Mill Christmas, 1.25, The Black and White Christmas Show, 1.35, Film: National Velvet (1945), with Elizabeth Taylor, Mickey Rooney, Donald Crisp, 3.35, Diane Solomon, 4.15, Aladdin, with Michael Aspel, Jacqueline Clarke, Dana, Peter Glaze, The Goodies, Barrie Gosney, Derek Griffiths, Deryck Guyler, Jan Hunt, Don Maclean, Paul's People, Ed Stewart, Richard Wattis, 5.15, News, 5.30, Tom and Jerry, 5.40, Film: Kidnapped (1960), with Peter Finch, James MacArthur, 7.10, Dick Emery, 7.45, The Likely Lads, special Christmas edition, 8.30, Film: Ice Station Zebra (1968), with Rock Hudson, 10.50, André Previn's Christmas Music Night, 11.55-1.00 am, The Message of the Angels: Family Eucharist from St Peter's, Hale, Cheshire.

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### Thames

9.55 am, Seaside Street, 10.50, Tabula Rasa, 11.00, The Hope and Kean, 11.05, The Languages of Animals, lecture by David Attenborough, Beware! Part 2, 10.35, Speed Buggy, 11.00, Roobarb, 11.05, Holiday Star Trek, 11.50, A Summer Friendship, 12.30, pm, News, 12.55, Pebble Mill Christmas, 1.25, The Black and White Christmas Show, 1.35, Film: National Velvet (1945), with Elizabeth Taylor, Mickey Rooney, Donald Crisp, 3.35, Diane Solomon, 4.15, Aladdin, with Michael Aspel, Jacqueline Clarke, Dana, Peter Glaze, The Goodies, Barrie Gosney, Derek Griffiths, Deryck Guyler, Jan Hunt, Don Maclean, Paul's People, Ed Stewart, Richard Wattis, 5.15, News, 5.30, Tom and Jerry, 5.40, Film: Kidnapped (1960), with Peter Finch, James MacArthur, 7.10, Dick Emery, 7.45, The Likely Lads, special Christmas edition, 8.30, Film: Ice Station Zebra (1968), with Rock Hudson, 10.50, André Previn's Christmas Music Night, 11.55-1.00 am, The Message of the Angels: Family Eucharist from St Peter's, Hale, Cheshire.

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### Southern

9.55 am, Seaside Street, 10.50, Tabula Rasa, 11.00, The Hope and Kean, 11.05, The Languages of Animals, lecture by David Attenborough, Beware! Part 2, 10.35, Speed Buggy, 11.00, Roobarb, 11.05, Holiday Star Trek, 11.50, A Summer Friendship, 12.30, pm, News, 12.55, Pebble Mill Christmas, 1.25, The Black and White Christmas Show, 1.35, Film: National Velvet (1945), with Elizabeth Taylor, Mickey Rooney, Donald Crisp, 3.35, Diane Solomon, 4.15, Aladdin, with Michael Aspel, Jacqueline Clarke, Dana, Peter Glaze, The Goodies, Barrie Gosney, Derek Griffiths, Deryck Guyler, Jan Hunt, Don Maclean, Paul's People, Ed Stewart, Richard Wattis, 5.15, News, 5.30, Tom and Jerry, 5.40, Film: Kidnapped (1960), with Peter Finch, James MacArthur, 7.10, Dick Emery, 7.45, The Likely Lads, special Christmas edition, 8.30, Film: Ice Station Zebra (1968), with Rock Hudson, 10.50, André Previn's Christmas Music Night, 11.55-1.00 am, The Message of the Angels: Family Eucharist from St Peter's, Hale, Cheshire.

### Anglia

9.55 am, Seaside Street, 10.50, Tabula Rasa, 11.00, The Hope and Kean, 11.05, The Languages of Animals, lecture by David Attenborough, Beware! Part 2, 10.35, Speed Buggy, 11.00, Roobarb, 11.05, Holiday Star Trek, 11.50, A Summer Friendship, 12.30, pm, News, 12.55, Pebble Mill Christmas, 1.25, The Black and White Christmas Show, 1.35, Film: National Velvet (1945), with Elizabeth Taylor, Mickey Rooney, Donald Crisp, 3.35, Diane Solomon, 4.15, Aladdin, with Michael Aspel, Jacqueline Clarke, Dana, Peter Glaze, The Goodies, Barrie Gosney, Derek Griffiths, Deryck Guyler, Jan Hunt, Don Maclean, Paul's People, Ed Stewart, Richard Wattis, 5.15, News, 5.30, Tom and Jerry, 5.40, Film: Kidnapped (1960), with Peter Finch, James MacArthur, 7.10, Dick Emery, 7.45, The Likely Lads, special Christmas edition, 8.30, Film: Ice Station Zebra (1968), with Rock Hudson, 10.50, André Previn's Christmas Music Night, 11.55-1.00 am, The Message of the Angels: Family Eucharist from St Peter's, Hale, Cheshire.

### Tyne Tees

9.55 am, Seaside Street, 10.50, Tabula Rasa, 11.00, The Hope and Kean, 11.05, The Languages of Animals, lecture by David Attenborough, Beware! Part 2, 10.35, Speed Buggy, 11.00, Roobarb, 11.05, Holiday Star Trek, 11.50, A Summer Friendship, 12.30, pm, News, 12.55, Pebble Mill Christmas, 1.25, The Black and White Christmas Show, 1.35, Film: National Velvet (1945), with Elizabeth Taylor, Mickey Rooney, Donald Crisp, 3.35, Diane Solomon, 4.15, Aladdin, with Michael Aspel, Jacqueline Clarke, Dana, Peter Glaze, The Goodies, Barrie Gosney, Derek Griffiths, Deryck Guyler, Jan Hunt, Don Maclean, Paul's People, Ed Stewart, Richard Wattis, 5.15, News, 5.30, Tom and Jerry, 5.40, Film: Kidnapped (1960), with Peter Finch, James MacArthur, 7.10, Dick Emery, 7.45, The Likely Lads, special Christmas edition, 8.30, Film: Ice Station Zebra (1968), with Rock Hudson, 10.50, André Previn's Christmas Music Night, 11.55-1.00 am, The Message of the Angels: Family Eucharist from St Peter's, Hale, Cheshire.

### Grampian

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## Fashion

by Prudence Glynn



Out of season clothes for the winter traveller.

Centre: Long, sleeveless cotton dress in a Liberty Print, with 4 pleats at the front of the skirt, narrow straps and square neck, under a plain cotton bolero. Called "Chilton Rhodes" by Jeff Banks. Price: £95, from an exclusive selection at his shop, 27, Duke Street, London, W1.

Far left: Button through polyester satin housegown by David Nieper. Style 895. Sizes WMS and WX both approx £26. Colours white, pink and silver, from Harrods housecoat department, Rackhams of Birmingham, and other good stores.

Left: White and blue rayon and lurex lacey poncho with matching ankle length skirt and long scarf. Designed and knitted by Esther Pearson. For details please contact her at Stroud Green Road, London N4. Tel.: 01-263 1482.

Photographs by Peter Akehurst.

## What would Actors Equity have to say?

am not a socially competitive aren't. Indeed, to so fine an effort, I have got the delegation the hospitable niceties that when I happened to answer the door bell the other day I was amazed to hear from a stranger in the steps that she had come to collect her child who had been having tea with us. I tried to course to look as though I knew all about it, but the situation was not enhanced by the fact that the only reason I was at all was because I was in the middle of mending strips of ebbing across the seat of the rawing room sofa which had tely fallen through. This all seemed too complicated to explain to the visitor and anyway I sofa, unmixed from its app cover, is not a pretty sight, so I left her in the hall while I went downstairs to find it if indeed we had an extra child around. We had, but when the man led him away something in her expression suggested that further invitations to a house where the door was opened by someone carrying a summer who patently had no tea of the previous responsibility having tea with her and no further left her visitors in the hall might not be thought of.

However, when it comes to all scale entertainment I can make an effort to be original. Once everyone round us goes to the same parties they get through a fair number of jugglers and entertainers and dim shows and bossy middle aged lady party organisers in a car, so finding something which the children have not seen before, which is suitable, and which you can afford is a poser. I cast my mind about, rather I cast my eyes about, magazine called *The Stage*, and any reading more poignant when the starburst turns to saw-just, when the name in lights is ever yours, then you take a title ad in *The Stage*. Kings of the Clarinet. Princes of the Augher. Novelty Juggling entertainers. Yodeling and singing. Accordionists, people with their Own Organ, all make believe life is there. You can have roller skaters or fire wallowers, or stunt bicyclists areering round your sitting room, which may be why lots of he acts have "audience participation" in small type at the bottom, so that if they land by mistake in someone's lap they can say it was all part of the plan.

Most of the entertainments offered were quite unsuitable for the modern child, but tucked in among Mr and Mrs Entertainment, and Mr Varley, and the belly dancers was a little dog who did tricks. For an audience of eight year olds, what better. I telephoned her agent, having selected an animal act, was then filled with doubt about the morality of training beasts to perform. All sorts of cruel stories came into my mind—had not Collette been sickened by the cruelty of the circus, who was the French magician whose best trick depended on the audience's humane assumption that the little birds he used survived the performance? They did not. Nightly they were crushed to death and replaced next day for a few sous in the market. However, I told myself that since

the English are invariably kinder to their animals than to each other I could not be fostering a foul trade. When I booked my dog act, the owner certainly did not sound the sort to use an electric goad. As a matter of fact, he did tell my husband that the training time could be cut in half if you used a stick (which naturally he had not) but luckily I did not hear this till it was all over and the star's mini-apparatus stowed in her modest transport.

It was when I was discussing the finer arrangements for the party that I became aware of a piercing lambent gaze on my back and turned round to find our cat listening to every word. His later life had been irradiated by a romance of epic proportions with the very person I was talking to, and what with being loyal to me too and acting as the perfect major domo to the household he found life pretty tiring and needed 22 hour's sleep a day. However, his sense of when to be awake was uncanny, and so there he was, staring at us in outrage with "DOG-Vulgar Tricks—in My House" written all over his face. Hastily we explained that it was just a small dog, a dog with people to keep, a dog who had to work for her living. Somewhat mollified he padded out and could be seen under the hydrangeas boasting to his friends that you would never catch him jumping through hoops for a livelihood.

At noon prompt on the day of the party he took up a position in the front row of the stalls, eyes slitted with suspicion. But his nerve was not what it was, and after wearing dizzily about among the plates holding the birthday tea (I thought he had licked the chocolate buns, but the rough-cast texture on the icing turned out to be cocoa, not tongue-marks) he retired upstairs. At 12.30 the Star's owner telephoned to ask if we had a carpet. It turned out that he was not concerned with the quality of our Aubussons, if any, but merely anxious that his dog should not break her neck on the parquet. At four o'clock Mr and Mrs Owner appeared with a large and rather cowed looking black and white sheep-dog type dog and were hustled in unison. Mrs Owner said where could she change? Change? Great Heavens, surely she was not going to get into spangles and a tu-tu? But, no, it was a neat dress. The star's cowed look turned out to be nothing but pre-performance nerves—she was as strung up as a high-wire act when we thrust her and Mr Owner into the guests' cloakroom while we loosed the children into the drawing room. Then we were away, with a real hit on our hands.

And puss? While the dog sprinted gamely round the Blüthner below, keeping her friends in limelight and hairdye Oscar, normally the most gregarious character snored upstairs wearing the expression of a cat who has had a canary or two in his time. He never looked to see that we were doing everything properly, he never put a whisker round the door. But next morning he went out very early and beat the daylights out of his harmless and deferential ginger pal from across the road.

Issued at the request of Gold Fields of South Africa Limited and Union Corporation Limited by Hill Samuel & Co. Limited, Hambros Bank Limited and Barclays National Merchant Bank Limited

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF UNION CORPORATION LIMITED

# RECOMMENDED OFFER

BY

**GOLD FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED**

("GFSA")

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

FOR

**UNION CORPORATION LIMITED**

("UNICORP")

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

The Boards of GFSa and Unicorp announce that the Offer Document incorporating GFSa's Recommended Offer has been posted to registered shareholders of Unicorp.

THE IMPROVED OFFER IS:-

For every 100 Ordinary Shares in Unicorp	6 New GFSa Ordinary Shares plus 7 New GFSa Convertible Preference Shares plus R120 IN CASH
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RIGHTS OF ELECTION

You may elect to receive

either

ADDITIONAL CASH INSTEAD OF GFSa ORDINARY SHARES

or

ADDITIONAL GFSa ORDINARY SHARES INSTEAD OF CASH

Subject to availability and on the bases stated in the Offer Document:-

THE CASH ELECTION SHOULD BE VALUABLE TO UNICORP'S UNITED KINGDOM AND OTHER SHAREHOLDERS NOT RESIDENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

who may elect to receive

ADDITIONAL CASH TO THE VALUE OF £203 INSTEAD OF GFSa ORDINARY SHARES WORTH £160

For every 100 Unicorp shares

THE SHARE ELECTION SHOULD BE VALUABLE TO UNICORP SHAREHOLDERS RESIDENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

who may elect to receive

ADDITIONAL GFSa ORDINARY SHARES WORTH R141 INSTEAD OF CASH TO THE VALUE OF R120

For every 100 Unicorp shares

TO SECURE THE RIGHTS OF ELECTION YOU MUST ACCEPT THE OFFER NOT LATER THAN 10th JANUARY 1975.

THE BOARD OF UNICORP AND THEIR ADVISERS UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMEND UNICORP SHAREHOLDERS TO ACCEPT.

JOHANNESBURG  
23rd DECEMBER 1974

See page 16



Perhaps we  
can build a snowman  
tomorrow

a snowman  
orrow

he was in good fettle. Our hostess thought we were all mad, and indeed said so; besides, she had to get on with the lunch. But she did not forget, before doing so, to make sure that we were suitably clad, and to set up a first-aid station for those overcome by cold and effort. The rest of us went forth onto the terrace, and set to work.

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Our hostess  
was certain we  
were mad!

We delineated a vast base, quickly divided up the labourers into bringers and packers, and lo! our snowman began to grow before our eyes. To help things go, some of us sang, and some recited, and some simply gritted their teeth and worked. I recall that for some treason the word "anorak"—several members of the party were wearing them.

began to fit it into well-known  
 lines of poetry as:  
 Not anorak an anorak suc-  
 ceeds.  
 Of scr. rolling anorak  
 The moving finger writes.  
 and anorak.  
 Milton? Thou shouldst be  
 living anorak.  
 Or is a tumbled anorak

And so on. (Our hostess, coming out to see if anybody should be ordered indoors for a hot drink and a rest, walked into the middle of this and returned more certain than ever that we were all mad.)

The snowman rose in splendour. I daresay that the passing years have played their usual trick of magnification; I am now prepared to believe that he was not 600 yards high and broad in proportion. But

he was very large, and very handsome. When he was finished, we stood round him and contemplated him, well satisfied with our work. But we all felt he lacked something, and after a moment it was the innocent eye of youth that spotted what it was, and announced it. Every self-respecting snowman has to have two far eyes, a carrot for nose and a multicoloured woolen scarf round his neck. These

We were found and fitted, and he looked upon our snowman, and found that he was good.

We all have days of gold, to which we return again and again, in vacant or in pensive mood. For me the day of the snowman is such a day, and always will be. It had stopped snowing before we began, and the sky was clear; wherever I looked there were friends; there was no cloud over that house, and no care inside it. The years have gone, but the

most active of those who built in snow that day—it was he who started the anorak game—is long since dead; and those who were children are grown up. But still, every Christmas, I think of the day we made the snowman, and of how, for a moment, we stopped time in its rolling course, and snatched a memory from its inexorable jaws. Perhaps it will snow tonight.

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78. A comet named after Japanese astronomers.  
79. The first man to circumnavigate Australia.  
80. Spengler's famous summer time bean on March 17.  
81. (a) Pyrolysis heating garbage to produce gas; (b) less economical than hydrolysis; (c) with acid to produce ethyl alcohol, protein and yeast; (d) Cre-  
82. 35. A breed of sheep.  
83. Fowler's

21. No. 22. A mystical instru-  
 ment made by pulling beer bottle  
 tops to a broomstick—formerly  
 known as a hogman's Johnny or  
 Murrumbidgee River harp. 23. It  
 was run in four months. 24. Sor-  
 ral or sororal. 25. (a) AB. (b) C1.  
 (c) C2. (d) C1. (e) C2. (f) C1.  
 (g) C2. (h) C1. (i) C2. (j) C1.  
 (k) C2. (l) C1. (m) C2. (n) C1.  
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 (s) C2. (t) C1. (u) C2. (v) C1.  
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[illegible]

Answers

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35. A breed of sheep. 3. Stamps. 6. Fowler.

garbage to produce gas is less economical than hydrolysis, boiling it with acid to produce ethyl alcohol, protein and yeast. (b) Fer-

March 17, 32. Harris on Brit-  
ish Summer Time began on  
Whisd. 33. (2) Pyrolis hearing

29. The first man to circumnavigate Australia. 30. Strongest man in the world. 31. 2 hours

Burnett (c) Tony Chater (d)  
- William Rees-Mogg, 27, Kojouteh.  
28. A former named after Japanese

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tops to a broomstick—formerly known as a hogging Johnny or a Murrumbidgee River tatter. 23. It

sound track. 20. None.  
21. Tvo. 22. A musical instru-  
ment made by pulling beer bottle.

Liberals, or abolitionists, showed up in numbers, with an unimpeachable blank screen for 30 minutes.

unsuccessfully for Parliament. 16.  
(a) Hedgefong. (b) Moler. 17. (a)  
Labour. (b) Conservatives. (c)  
Liberal. (d) Nationalist. (e) Tur-

same. (c) But Conservatives to join  
Scottish Nationalists. 13. Ours. 14.  
Sean Macbride. 15. They all stood

thing is discontinued  
nothing is discontinued  
general elections. 12. (a) Let  
about and found in one (b) Let

sprinkled with sugar and cinnamon—  
a sixteenth-century recipe.

and sedative. 7) Gallic extract. 8) Because it is a see-through to do (joke). 9. Prudence. 10. Volk of (joke) poached in rosewater and

Pigeon, whose duty in Brockton was a hawk. The rest are real. 2. (a) Herb used in pickles. (b) A herb.

us), 3. They are both names for rearing, 4. Both names for porcelains, 5. Both are featured in the Guinness Book of Names, 6. 11

1. A variety of numbers. 2. Each item, particularly if you are Scott

ANSWERS

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## RESOURCES OF THE SPIRIT

Today Pope Paul VI inaugurates the twenty-fifth Holy Year to be celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church. Boniface VIII, who proclaimed the first jubilee in the year 1300, intended its observance to be centennial. But other popes and other generations were not content to miss their chance. After some oscillation the period settled down to twenty five years, and so it has remained with gaps in the nineteenth century when the papacy lacked the necessary political foothold in Rome. It fell to Pope Paul to decide whether to continue or suspend the tradition.

Few Christians, indeed few persons of religion, will deny the suitability in these troubled times of the dedication of a year to the advancement of faith and reconciliation. Not all, however, are attracted to this particular way of doing so, the most conspicuous features of which are mass pilgrimages to Rome and the grant in a most ample manner of a plenary indulgence by the Holy See.

A Holy Year magnifies the place of Rome in the Christian Church, and by extension the papal primacy. The logistics of the thing are formidable. In the 1450 celebrations 200 pilgrims were trampled to death in a panic on the bridge of Sant' Angelo. No one suggests that the present municipal administration, bad as it is, is so bad as to threaten a repetition of that event. But pilgrimages on such a scale impose strains on already over-stretched services and are usually attended by venality. Then there is the matter of the plenary indulgence. The place of indulgences in the Roman Catholic scheme of things has changed since Friar Tetzel was preaching them near Wittenberg in 1516. But the memory of those titanic controversies has not completely faded, and Reformed churches must find it difficult to take warmly to an initiative of which indulgences are so central a feature.

They will take more encouragement from the emphasis Pope Paul has been placing in his preliminary exhortations on the purposes of interior renewal and reconciliation of man with God and man with man. The kind of society with which we in the Western world are familiar has been disfigured by swollen expectations and exaggerated grievances. It is not going to take kindly to colder economic weather. It would be prudent, or the children of this world no

less than for the children of light, to cultivate interior resources when exterior resources are becoming more difficult to command. Moreover, the hope survives that self-improvement by persons brings about improvements in the general arrangements and relationships of the society to which they belong.

The springs of individual action are not, however, simply continuous with the springs of collective action. Organizations exhibit institutional drives which work to some extent independently of the personal drives of its members.

A topical illustration of the point is the device of the strike against the public. Whether it is a school teachers' union ordering action which disimproves some pupils' examination chances, or a miners' union acting in a way which makes it more likely that some old and solitary people will die of hypothermia, or a consultants' union contemplating action which deprives patients of early medical attention, or railway signalmen making it difficult or impossible for some important journeys to be made—in all such cases the collective pursuit of self-interest is held to sanction behaviour which most members of the organization would be thoroughly ashamed of if the behaviour was their own in a person to person situation. The same paradox attaches to the behaviour of a gang at a football stadium, or a sectarian mob in the street, or a nation at war.

If the dominant collective drives of a society cease to be well adapted to the realities of that society's situation one may expect malfunctioning to follow. Some thoughtful people suspect that that is the position now reached by Western industrial societies.

Acquisitive drives are deeply institutionalized in politics, commerce and organized labour. These collective activities proceed as if the competitive enlargement of consumption were the proper order of things. Its achievement is made to appear their main, though not their exclusive, purpose. This presupposes that such indefinite progression is possible.

The belief that it is possible was cradled both by a particular theological world view and by the course of development of natural science and technology since the seventeenth century. The first inculcated a view of man's superiority over other created things, which were to be

understood as instrumental to his needs. The second suggested that human rationality and ingenuity could convert the resources of the planet to man's satisfaction virtually without limit.

A theology of nature of that kind is no longer entertained at any except a popular level. And the direction in which the sciences now point is away from a conception of the natural world as providing material for endless exploitation and towards recognition of the complexity and instability of natural systems, in relation to which man is to be seen not as a superior beneficiary but as an integral part. This view which science gives of the relational complexity and fragility of the biosphere is matched by common observation of the stresses and scarcities that make themselves felt when vast populations, furnished with the attitudes and equipment of this age, press upon one another and upon the resources of the globe.

The attitudes which might fit this emerging understanding of modern man's predicament on earth are beginning to be shared by the discerning; while those who have held fast to the spiritual values of the Christian faith or absorbed the wisdom of the perennial philosophy have never been out of touch with these things. But it is just here that the discontinuity between personal and institutional attitudes is of such significance. Until the latter are changed (and the means of doing so are lengthy and obscure) society as a whole—or, which is almost as bad, for society, powerful interests within it—will suffer the consequences of failure to adapt.

Meanwhile many citizens, aware of the penalty of that failure, feel frustrated in their generous impulses to make some voluntary personal sacrifice for the common good. It may be something to stave off famine abroad, or something to relieve the condition of inflationary indebtedness which is deforming the nation. They come up against the difficulty of making effective a sacrifice which, however large for them, is insignificant in relation to what has called it forth; and they are discouraged by the vastly superior weight of institutional pressures moving in the opposite direction. It would be a stroke of political leadership to create outlets for these impulses, capable of turning what are now condemned to be quixotic gestures into actions of utility in the face of gathering danger.

## Increases in top salaries

From Mr Ian Gow, Conservative MP for Eastbourne

Sir, By common consent, we are facing our gravest economic crisis ever. The need for national unity, and the anxiety before self has never been greater.

Yet the Prime Minister chose the last day of 1974 on which Parliament was in session to announce, in a written answer, that from the first day of the New Year, the salaries of generals, admirals, air chief marshals and under-secretaries will go up by nearly £60 a week, before tax.

However justified these increases might be in normal circumstances, their implementation at the present time reveals a lack of understanding of the national mood and an ignorance of the whole psychology of leadership which is deeply disturbing.

1975 will be a year of substantial redundancies and much higher unemployment. It will be a year when the country cannot afford any real increases in wages, if the most vulnerable are to be protected. On March 18, 1974, in his first speech in the House of Commons as Secretary for Employment, Mr Michael Foot said:

"Nothing can be more absurd than the spectacle of a few fat men exhorting all the thin ones to tighten their belts."

Just so. The Prime Minister's decision has highlighted that absurdity and has added greatly to the difficulties of his own Secretary of State.

Yours faithfully, IAN GOW, House of Commons, December 21.

## Farm worker's lot

From Mr Wilfrid E. Cave

Sir, Farmworkers were "notoriously underpaid" claimed Mr Bottini of the National Union of Agricultural Workers in his letter to you (November 28).

Mr Rampton refutes this in his letter (December 18) and forecasts future earnings of around £2,000 per annum. So far as this part of the country is concerned Mr Rampton seriously understates the earnings position. The average gross earnings of all the adult men between the ages of 20 and 65 on my own farm in the past six months is £48.50 per week. I know that this sort of level is commonplace on many progressive farms in the Wessex area.

I calculate that the wage award effective from January 20, 1975, will not add less than £350 per annum to a man's gross earnings and in the case of women the figure will be much higher, taking many farmworkers well beyond the £3,000 a year mark quite regardless of any benefits in kind. If this is being "notoriously underpaid" compared with other industries perhaps the Government should consider the other industries to which he refers and state some figures and should he want proof of my own figures I will be pleased to give it to him (in confidence, of course).

Yours faithfully, WILFRID E. CAVE, W. E. & D. T. Cave Ltd, Farmers, Little House Farm, Everleigh, Marlborough, Wiltshire.

## From Mr L. G. Scales

Sir, It should be noted that although Mr J. M. Rampton (Letters, December 18) quotes what he thinks farm cottages are worth, in cash terms, on the open property market, he expediently omits to reveal their true commercial worth to the farmers.

Without them farmers would not be shielded from the harsh realities of the open labour market. That is why they fight tooth and nail to retain control over them and those who dwell in them. That is why, as a farm worker has worked more hours to earn it, his average wage is £19 per week less than the national average.

That is why, Mr Bottini, the farm workers' representative, would be justified in his suspicion of any promises that the farmers may make about their seeing that the farm workers would be a great deal better off, in the event of his successful persuasions, his fellow trade unionists started to pay what Mr Rampton considers to be a realistic price for home produced food.

Yours truly, L. G. SCALES, Chairman, Epping Branch, National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers, Epping, Essex.

## City and British Leyland

From Mr G. F. M. P. Thompson

Sir, Does Mr Roger Marsh (December 12) appreciate that the problems of industrial enterprises have different causes calling for different remedies?

A financial institution uses savings to finance assets. It runs into difficulty when these assets, however good, cease to be realizable within the time span of the financing institution's resources. Another institution having more durable resources can provide a remedy.

An industrial enterprise meets difficulty when its product can no longer be sold at a price which covers its cost. The remedy may be a host of reasons for this, rising costs, restricted prices, unimaginative design, impudent management or intractable labour. Against these financial help is no remedy; it may even make matters worse.

A government may decide to transfer the burden of an unprofitable enterprise to the country as a whole by creating the funds necessary to keep it in being regardless of the inflationary effects. It is in fact these effects which transfer the burden to the public. A financial institution cannot do this. Nor can it take the burden on its own shoulders because its prime responsibilities are to its creditors, its customers, its employees and its shareholders.

Yours faithfully, GERALD THOMPSON, Chairman, Kleinwort Benson, 20, Fenchurch Street, EC3.

## Editors and the closed shop

From the Secretary of State for Employment

Sir, Since you persist in misrepresenting in your columns both the purpose and possible effects of the Government's Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill, and since, in your grisly pantomime, you continue to portray me as the demon who would force employers from any requirement to join a union or allowing time for new recruits to join—and to write in any extra specific unions which are to be recognized."

That I repeat is a distortion before 1971: it will remain the position when our Act becomes law. However, if it is further argued that it is not the projected law which arouses your concern, but the general mood and atmosphere in Fleet Street and the rest of the industry, I am ready to agree. How freedom is not merely to be protected but to be enlarged; what is to be the status of editors and whether some agreed acknowledgment of that status can be incorporated in union membership agreements, how the code of the journalists and editors' proprietors' scarcely less eloquent professions are to be translated into practice, are all questions of supreme importance, and it was for this reason that I greatly welcomed both in conversation with the General Secretary of the National Union of Journalists and in the House of Commons the general secretary's initiative in proposing talks with the editors and proprietors on these topics. These talks, I believe, and trust, could achieve what no law could achieve—an assurance that a strengthening of trade unionism would be combined with an enlargement of individual freedom.

It is precisely because of these hopes that I was saddened when the Fleet Street editors who met me again last week appeared to suggest that they might not favour these talks if it had not been agreed in advance to enforce by law what I believe may be most difficult, or even impossible, to enforce. That would surely be a sour response to a helpful initiative, and I trust the editors will come to see the mischief of it; after all, others besides editors and proprietors have a right and a duty to discuss how these essential matters shall be handled and enhanced. But if this interpretation of the editors' view is correct, I trust, Sir, you will use your influence to persuade them to think again, and I trust also that in making this suggestion I will not be accused, as I was at the meeting, of believing and trust, could achieve what no law could achieve—an assurance that a strengthening of trade unionism would be combined with an enlargement of individual freedom.

I appreciate that it may be argued that, within the newspaper industry, as in many others associated with white collar workers, there may be an intensified feeling towards the closed shop membership. So be it. I trust it will not be regarded as a sinister confession if I say that, as a Labour Minister, I can hardly be expected to throw legal bulwarks across that road of development. I believe, and trust, could achieve what no law could achieve—an assurance that a strengthening of trade unionism would be combined with an enlargement of individual freedom.

Yours etc, MICHAEL FOOT, Department of Employment, 8 St James's Square, SW1, December 23.

## Raising money to restore cathedrals

From the Rev N. Allen Birtwhistle

Sir, So the appeal for funds to restore Canterbury Cathedral is being attacked with arguments similar to those that have been used against preserving Wesley's Chapel. While the cathedral is by far the more ancient, beautiful, and important building, the two have one other thing in common: each is regarded as the mother church of a world-wide communion.

Perhaps it is an appropriate time of the year to ask whether mothers are really necessary. Man is born of woman, even in this age of technology and equality, and man is born again in the church. Those gifts, in support of works of mercy, that all would acknowledge to be works of a living church, but which some would have us see as an alternative to spending money on ecclesiastical buildings, arise from the vision of those who have become aware of the presence of God.

How much poorer and more sordid would have been our lives down the centuries if these places had never been built, with sacrifice, to His glory. And how much we need that vision now.

Yours faithfully, ALLEN BIRTWHISTLE, Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, EC1.

## From the Provost of Coventry Cathedral

Sir, I would like to add to the correspondence on the subject of cathedrals to make a point in relation to the particular predicament of Coventry Cathedral at the moment.

Its Ministry has seized the opportunity of the rebirth of the cathedral to extend as widely and as deeply as possible the efforts in the direction of Christian renewal and reconciliation. Almost every penny that has been received from our main sources of income, namely visitors and tourists, has been ploughed into the ministry of the cathedral. Appeals for financial support for such an endeavour at a time of opportunity do not evoke the same enthusiastic support as, for perfectly good reasons, do appeals for the restoration of ancient and famous buildings.

This means that at a time when there are opportunities to develop our ministry to three or four times its present scope, we are compelled, in the face of inflation, to give all our energies to maintaining the ministry; which is of course fortunate in having a beautiful and secure new building, but we are disadvantaged in having to maintain the fourteenth-century tower and spire—among the most beautiful in England—which are of no direct relevance to the ministry of the cathedral, but are of historical importance to the nation and of very real traditional importance to the city of Coventry.

It is likely that something like

workers have decided to try to obtain a closed shop, each employer is entitled to deal with this as he would with any other union claim by negotiation or outright rejection. It is also open to an employer and a union to decide on specific provisions—for example, excluding existing employees from any requirement to join a union or allowing time for new recruits to join—and to write in any extra specific unions which are to be recognized."

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Yours etc, MICHAEL FOOT, Department of Employment, 8 St James's Square, SW1, December 23.

## British Rail and the art market

From Mr J. E. Humphrey

Sir, I go with Geraldine Norman and Mr Ray Buckton (December 21) in questioning the investment antics of the British Rail Pension Fund in conjunction with Sotheby's. For my part I would lock up the trustees over the festive season in a room stuffed with fake ikons, plastic gnomes, elephantfoot umbrellas, stands, Monarchs, the Glen painted by numbers and souvenirs of Margate made in Hongkong. And, Sir, their guests would be those latter-day materialists who used to compile the ghastly array of digits known as *The Times-Sotheby Index*—that speculators' yadamecum which, mute on all criteria save price, and about as sensitive to beauty and craftsmanship as a mechanical gram, was a good deal responsible for this sort of patronage of the arts. One's only fear is that the aesthetic sensibility of hosts and guests is probably so immune from offence that the treatment would be world class.

Yours faithfully, J. E. HUMPHREY, 9 Offington Gardens, Worthing, Sussex.

From Mr W. Leggatt Robinson

Sir, While not presuming to question the conclusions of your Sale Room Correspondent in her article of December 21, I beg to suggest that the 1925 purchase of a Gainsborough was not quite such a good example of an art investment as she suggests. If Lord Duveen had put the £70,000 into War Loan 5 per cent (later 3½ per cent) instead, the stock would have yielded about £125,000 in dividends in steadily depreciating currency, and would have been £14,350 against the Gainsborough's current value of £300,000.

I am, Dear Sir, Yours faithfully, W. LEGGATT ROBINSON, Sunfold, Lewins Road, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.

## Broadcasting watchdog

From Lord Willis

Sir, Mrs Mary Whitehouse's demand that the BBC should open its books, raises an interesting point about her organization *The National Viewers' and Listeners' Association*. Will she, on its behalf, make a reciprocal gesture and tell us a little more about its finances, structure and organization? The questions that come to mind are as follows:

1. Just how many members has the association?
2. Does she include in the figures of membership the total membership of all the organizations that may be affiliated to the association?
3. How is it financed?
4. Who are the other members of the committee and how are they elected?
5. How are the elections arranged? For example, are there nominations for the post of honorary general secretary and is there a ballot for the position?

Mrs Whitehouse has managed to secure a great deal of publicity for herself in recent years and now emerges at the drop of a hat to pronounce judgement on the activities of other organizations on behalf of the association. It seems only reasonable, therefore, to ask that we should know for whom she speaks and the basis on which the association is run.

Yours faithfully, WILLIS, 5 Shepherds Green, Chislehurst, Kent.

## Old tube stations

From Councillor Joan Russell

Sir, May I clarify a point made in a letter in your columns from Mr Robb, Managing Director, London Transport (December 4) which stated that planning permission was still awaited for the greatly needed improvements at Gloucester Road tube station. This council granted planning permission in November, 1973, for an excellent scheme for redevelopment of this almost empty site, which included some offices, shops, extra housing and a contribution to the modernization of the Underground station.

There is a prospective tenant for the office building. The application was referred to the GLC for planning permission in December, 1973. We are becoming increasingly frustrated and annoyed at the GLC's attitude which delays the office development over the Underground station is excessive and that the developer should contribute more to the modernization of the tube station. The cost of running the railway line runs into millions of pounds but the GLC continue to insist that the developers contribute more and that this tube station is not on a "first priority" list in any case. Thus the whole area remains derelict, dirty, rat-infested and degraded.

Twisting property owners' tails and trying to squeeze out more and more, in this case the highly reputable Legal and General Assurance, is becoming a dangerous sport and this application further illustrates the need either for the abolition of the GLC or a drastic reorganization and a reduction in their excessive and stultifying powers of interference.

Yours faithfully, JOAN RUSSELL, Chairman, Town Planning Committee, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Town Hall, Kensington, W8.

## Buses in convey

From Mr Andrew Abdell

Sir, Mr J. B. Turner snappily observes in his letter (December 18) that "since London Transport adopted the convey system, a bus has been lost", but it is equally fair to say that many have been missed.

Yours faithfully, ANDREW ABDELL, 11 Gray's Inn Square, WC1.

## COMMAS DO MATTER IN DIPLOMACY

When western political leaders meet Mr Brezhnev they find themselves pressed to say something optimistic about the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which adjourned on Christmas last week after more than a year of negotiation in Geneva. For instance, in Moscow in July President Nixon endorsed the Soviet view that the conference had made such good progress that it should be wound up at an early date at the highest level. Yet only a few weeks earlier the Nato foreign ministers had expressed disappointment at the lack of progress.

A similar pattern has been repeated this month. After Mr Brezhnev's visit to Paris the joint communiqué contained phrases which the Russians, with a little tending and stretching, are now treating as a French commitment to an early summit conference of the thirty-five countries involved. A week later, however, the French subscribed to a much more cautious Nato communiqué which said that there had been enough progress to show that substantial results were possible or certain important questions still to be resolved.

These differences have a number of causes. One of them is the tendency of political leaders to become impatient with points of frangibility which hold up the Geneva negotiations. They can easily be persuaded that they are called upon to give the talks

new impetus by cutting through the knots tied by meticulous officials. The Americans were particularly impatient because they felt that the talks were allowing a lot of minor European countries to obstruct the majestic progress of détente between the super powers.

American attitudes are now changing with a change of President partly because the west Europeans have refused to forget that the conference is committed to working out a set of principles governing relations among the countries of east and west Europe as well as to improving the flow of people and information. The Russians have thus discovered that they cannot settle everything by direct negotiations with Washington but they still cling to hopes that by getting together with individual politicians they can make gains which elude them at the conference table.

Doubtless they will try again when they meet Mr Wilson next year. It is therefore important for western politicians to see that the long delays in Geneva have not been caused solely by the finicky exactitudes of officials obsessed by commas. They have been caused partly because thirty-five nations are trying to agree on something they have never agreed on before, and partly because the Russians have correctly recognized the importance of the texts that will emerge and

are prepared to fight hard for certain formulations.

For instance, they have been trying to avoid a commitment to publishing the results of the conference in full. If they are successful they could make it difficult for their own citizens to claim their rights in matters such as the reunification of families. They are also resisting proposals on the advance notification of military manoeuvres which western governments regard as essential to the confidence-building aspects of the conference. More generally, there have been long disputes over vaguely worded preambles which could become escape routes from almost all the obligations which follow.

These texts will become basic documents in European relations. They will be referred to and argued about for many years. They will not instantly transform the situation. They may have scarcely any noticeable effect at first. But as well as containing certain definite obligations they will provide points of reference and appeal and standards against which conduct can be judged. If they are sloppily drafted now, or if unnecessary concessions are made in order to give some official visit a flicker of extra warmth, there will be a price to pay in the future. The West has no need to pay this price if it merely sticks to the commitments which all the participants made in Helsinki last year.

## County Court bailiffs

From Mr M. R. Turner

Sir, The Law Society opposes the County Court Bailiff system being extended to the High Court (*The Times*, December 16).

What a pity they do not go further and request the Lord Chancellor to extend the High Court enforcement procedure to the County Court.

To say that the service provided by the Bailiffs, who are charged with enforcing County Court judgments, is "unsatisfactory" is the understatement of the year. After some five months' tussle with the Bailiffs of the Uxbridge County Court, who seem quite unable to enforce payment of a relatively trivial sum from a debtor who has at least the trappings of wealth, one is left with the impression that the County Court bailiff system is wholly incapable of carrying out the job for which it was set up.

I am not alone in the legal profession in thinking that there is something rotten in the state of the County Court bailiff system, and the sooner it is abolished in favour of an enforcement procedure with teeth, the better.

Yours faithfully, M. R. TURNER, 44 Bedford Row, WC1, December 17.

## Treatment of dissidents

From Mr Lea Ben Dor

Sir, The misleading quotation from a parliamentary report of mine in the *Jerusalem Post* of November 8, a letter signed by Lord Oxford and Asquith and others which appeared in *The Times* of December 5, has only just been brought to my notice.

I am truly amazed that the noble lord totally fails to recognize irony when he meets it: we tend to consider it an English speciality. By noting me out of context, Lord Oxford entirely reversed the sense of a reference I made to Dr Israel Shahak, an Israeli chemist who has been sharply attacked for his political support of the PLO terrorist organization.

The criticism was voiced in a discussion in the Knesset (parliament) the recent promotion to full professor at the Hebrew University of Dr Shahak. Several speakers, including the Education Minister, Aharon Adin, had expressed the view that Dr Shahak appeared unbalanced in his political utterances, in fact, that he was "crazy".

In a final comment summing up the debate I wrote: "Remember the Medvedev scientific brothers in Russia, who were

locked up in a mental hospital because they disagreed with official Soviet policy, because the Russians said they were crazy, they must be? What shall we do about the poor professor? The hospital? Or a bit of the terrorism he approves? A booby-trap over the laboratory door?"

Lord Oxford and Asquith omitted the entire reference to the Medvedevs and Russian methods with dissenters. In Israel the fate of the two Medvedev brothers, Roy and Zhores—who are not Jews—is nevertheless part of the saga of Soviet Jews imprisoned as "crazy" because they wish to emigrate to Israel. Zhores Medvedev has been in England for more than a year, and his name, as a man persecuted for his opinions, should surely have been familiar to the defenders of Professor Shahak.

The implication in my article was quite clear, at least to the reader of the full paragraph: let us not be like the Russians in this respect, nor say a man is crazy because he disagrees with us.

Yours faithfully, LEA BEN DOR, Editor, The Jerusalem Post, The Jerusalem Post Building, Jerusalem 91000, December 18.







Rugby Union

# Even higher honours beckon as Cotton is appointed leader

By Peter West  
Rugby Correspondent

FRAN COTTON, the Coventry, Lancashire and British Lions prop, will captain England in their first international of the season, against Ireland in Dublin, on January 15. The 30-year-old prop, who was named to the Rest XV last Saturday but, by outshooting the wheelbarrow, gave notice that he is more than a specialist.

It became apparent, when the selectors named Cotton to lead the senior side in last week's final match, that all hands were being put to the test. Cotton, who has been a mainstay of the Lions since 1972, is now being asked to lead the team in a home season—and the short tour of Australia next May—while a Lancastrian in charge of the fortunes of the Welsh side is a Lancastrian, Burgess, masterminding their efforts as coach.

It would prolong an association which has not just through their own success in recent years, but also through the efforts of Burgess, who has been a mainstay of the Lions since 1972, is now being asked to lead the team in a home season—and the short tour of Australia next May—while a Lancastrian in charge of the fortunes of the Welsh side is a Lancastrian, Burgess, masterminding their efforts as coach.

“We have had a little success before,” said Cotton, who was named to the Rest XV last Saturday but, by outshooting the wheelbarrow, gave notice that he is more than a specialist.

“We have had a little success before,” said Cotton, who was named to the Rest XV last Saturday but, by outshooting the wheelbarrow, gave notice that he is more than a specialist.



Wordsworth: confidence in his potential should boost his morale.

Stevens' back strain and Ralston's injury have been a blow to the team, but Cotton's appointment is seen as a boost for the selectors. Cotton, who has been a mainstay of the Lions since 1972, is now being asked to lead the team in a home season—and the short tour of Australia next May—while a Lancastrian in charge of the fortunes of the Welsh side is a Lancastrian, Burgess, masterminding their efforts as coach.

## Boyle comes in for Scottish tour

By Peter West

THOSE who follow the progress of the Scottish party to the tour of Australia will be disappointed to learn that Boyle, who has been a mainstay of the Lions since 1972, is now being asked to lead the team in a home season—and the short tour of Australia next May—while a Lancastrian in charge of the fortunes of the Welsh side is a Lancastrian, Burgess, masterminding their efforts as coach.

## Spin on a wearing pitch gives England best hope of victory

From John Woodcock  
Cricket Correspondent

IN so far as they can be, after their experiences of the first two Test matches, England are in a good position to take the spin out of the Adelaide Test. They have a good chance of victory, but it will be a hard-fought battle.

Rackets

### Nicholls joins elite

Nicholls, who has been a mainstay of the Lions since 1972, is now being asked to lead the team in a home season—and the short tour of Australia next May—while a Lancastrian in charge of the fortunes of the Welsh side is a Lancastrian, Burgess, masterminding their efforts as coach.

Football

### A West Ham ready to talk turkey

Boxing Day football matches have always had a special appeal. On the terraces, that first display of Christmas presents, cheer, and a selection of those appalling and hilarious tales told under orders of the referee.

Squash rackets

### A repeat 3-1 success for Pakistan

By Rex Bellamy  
Squash Rackets Correspondent

THE remaining amateur matches will be played at Wembley on January 7. A more valid test of strength, assembling leading professionals and amateurs of both countries in a five-rubber contest, will bring the series to a climax at Wembley on January 28.

Schools team to meet

### FA Youth XI

The Amateur Football Association (home counties) schools team will play the FA Youth XI at Barclay Bank Ground, Gillingham, on January 2. The match is being played to raise money for the school's sports equipment.

Latest snow reports

Station	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Weather
Andover	100	Good	Cloud
Amersham	100	Good	Cloud
Ammanbury	100	Good	Cloud
Ammanbury	100	Good	Cloud
Ammanbury	100	Good	Cloud

Yesterday's results

Division	Home	Score	Away
First Division	Manchester United	2-1	Sheff Wed
Second Division	Sheff Wed	1-0	Sheff Utd
Third Division	Sheff Utd	1-0	Sheff Wed

Skill takes second place to determination

By Norman Creek  
Public Schools 3 FA Youth XI 2

When he presented the cups at the schools six a side tournament last week, the FA Youth XI coach, who has been a mainstay of the Lions since 1972, is now being asked to lead the team in a home season—and the short tour of Australia next May—while a Lancastrian in charge of the fortunes of the Welsh side is a Lancastrian, Burgess, masterminding their efforts as coach.

Rugby Union

### Third division

Aldershot v Gillingham	1-0
Blackburn v Preston	1-0
Bournemouth v Hereford	1-0
Bury v Huddersfield	1-0
Cardiff v Swansea	1-0

Rugby League

### Third division

Aldershot v Gillingham	1-0
Blackburn v Preston	1-0
Bournemouth v Hereford	1-0
Bury v Huddersfield	1-0
Cardiff v Swansea	1-0

TV highlights

Time	Match
12.15	Manchester United v Sheff Wed
1.15	Sheff Wed v Sheff Utd
2.15	Sheff Utd v Sheff Wed

Hockey

### Scotland's two new caps in party of 12

By Sydney Friskin

THE Scottish party to the tour of Australia will be disappointed to learn that Boyle, who has been a mainstay of the Lions since 1972, is now being asked to lead the team in a home season—and the short tour of Australia next May—while a Lancastrian in charge of the fortunes of the Welsh side is a Lancastrian, Burgess, masterminding their efforts as coach.

Ice hockey

### National League

Andover	1-0
Amersham	1-0
Ammanbury	1-0
Ammanbury	1-0
Ammanbury	1-0

Boxing Day fixtures

Division	Home	Away
First Division	Manchester United	Sheff Wed
Second Division	Sheff Wed	Sheff Utd
Third Division	Sheff Utd	Sheff Wed

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SPORT

Racing

# Forecasting Soothsayer to follow home Pencil Clear Cut can never be left out of the reckoning

By Michael Phillips  
Racing Correspondent

Pencil will become the first horse to win the King George VI Steeplechase at Kempton Park three times if he is successful there again on Boxing Day. When he won it last year he equalled Hallowsen's and Mandarin's feat, having won it the year before as well.

Pencil is certain to start at odds-on and will be a great shock if he fails, in spite of the fact that the Gold Cup winner, Captain Christy, will be among his rivals.

Kempton is Pencil's happy hunting ground. Quite apart from winning this particular race, he has also won five other races there. Kempton it seems is a course where his brilliant, quick jumping has always stood him in good stead, a place where he has been able to make the most of his undoubted speed.

With wins at Newbury, Sandown Park and Haydock Park under his belt already this season, Pencil has looked as good as ever, and I expect to see him win again. But who will finish second? That is the question. Captain Christy, who has won it twice, is a strong contender, but he has not won since he was beaten by Pencil at Kempton last year.

Some, perhaps, might think that Pencil will win the Gold Cup, but I think that is a long way off.

who did after all beat The Dikler by five lengths to win the Gold Cup at Cheltenham in March, as Pencil lay prostrate on the ground, having been brought down by High Ken three fences from home.

However, Captain Christy did not do at all well on his only previous visit to this country this season, and in the circumstances, I am inclined to think that anyone contemplating a sporting bet could do much worse than forecast Pencil to win from his stable companion, Soothsayer.

The conditions of the race certainly suit Soothsayer who is due to receive 11 lb from Pencil. Captain Christy and Royal Relief and weight, too, from High Ken whom he beat at Cheltenham in November, when he was actually giving High Ken 18 lb. Obviously Captain Christy will be a tough opponent for Pencil if he is at his best. After all, he did win six steeplechases including the Gold Cup last season. But he also left a lot to be desired at Cheltenham earlier this month, when he finished last but one in the Masey-Ferguson Gold Cup.

Soothsayer has run an excellent race at Cheltenham a month ear-

lier, carrying 12 st 10 lb to second place in the Mackeson Gold Cup. He had High Ken just behind him at the end and he meets that horse now on 23 lb better terms. Royal Relief is a good horse on his day, as he proved when he won the National Hunt two-mile Championship Steeplechase at Cheltenham in March. But he has not run well in three races this season and it is difficult to fancy his chance.

Comedy of Errors has been declared to run in the William Hill Christmas Hurdle, but only as a safeguard against anything preventing him from travelling to Ireland for Friday's Irish Sweepstake. Incidentally, those contemplating a bet on Boxing Day should be on their guard. If the time of the year that trainers are allowed to declare their horses for one or more races at different meetings.

In the absence of Comedy of Errors the William Hill Christmas Hurdle is likely to be won by Tree Tangle who, after Lantanaire and Comedy of Errors, is arguably the best of the three. Tree Tangle has now won six of his last seven races, three last season and three this, and there are arounds for thinking that he

ought to have won the seventh as well, had not Andrew Turpin taken things too easily at Newbury when he was caught unawares by J. King on Flash Inn.

Judged by the way that he rode Tree Tangle in his next race at Ascot, Turpin had learned from that mistake, and Tree Tangle promptly won the SGT Hurdle there easily. He certainly exposed Supreme Halo's limitations, and he seems poised to beat that horse again.

The Country Range Novice Hurdle is a new race in the Kempton programme. It has been sponsored by Country Range Frozen Foods, whose chairman, George Jackson, has promised that any prize money won by his wife, Mrs. Jackson, will be donated to the injured jockeys fund. Red Power has won nine races on the flat already, but he has only one race under National Hunt rules at Sandown Park in November. However, starting as he did at only 12-8 he was obviously expected to do better than that and his is clearly a name to bear in mind.

So too is that of Anji, another interesting recruit from the world of flat racing. Anji won the Borough Stakes at Royal Ascot and

the Ebor Handicap at York this summer, but he lacks the experience of Bell Bryn and Present Arms who were both successful on the same afternoon at Sandown Park in the autumn. Bell Bryn was raised in New Zealand and that was his first and only race in this country—an encouraging start.

It was noticeable that Present Arms won his race in a much faster time that day and he is preferred now. It could be that Present Arms will be the first of two winners for the Queen Mother, whose colours will also be carried by Tammuz in the Boxing Day Handicap Hurdle. But there was a lot to be said about the way that his half-brother, the 1,000 Guineas winner, Highclere, ran in his first and only race this season. He finished fifth miles away from his stable, and behind Sydney Carton. But of Prey and Gay Dancer are probably the two that supporters of Tammuz should fear the most.

country last season with six victories in a row followed by a second in the Irish Hurdle. Ten Up, in the 1800 Sun Arden Steeplechase at Cheltenham, has clearly won 12st 4lb, but he has earned this place at the top of the handicap through his many good performances in 1973-74.

Ken Oliver, who has a strong fleet of runners at Wetherby and Sedgfield, will be briefing three jockeys for his runners in the parade ring. The Benign Bishop, Meridian II, and Lingus, and Arthur Stephenson will be doing likewise. Interview II, Scout, the favourite for the Grand National and the 11-year-old Super-master, whose record over the course is almost as good as that of Clear Cut. He has won nine races there.

In what is a really challenging and difficult handicap Tony Dickinson's Anthony Watt, the better for his race last week when he was third to the Tutor and Glen Owen have by no means remote claims, but it may be that Clear Cut, Clarendon Briggs, in the best novice steeplechaser in the

Anthony Watt and Interview will be in close touch at the finish. I take Clear Cut to win from Anthony Watt and Clarendon Briggs.

The champion jockey, Ro Barry, with the plaster removed from a broken wrist, might have a Boxing Day to celebrate in the best traditions of Irish style while he gets home to his house in Cumberland. Rustic Prince, a division one of the Bradford Novices Hurdle, offers him an excellent chance of starting the programme with a victory, and I think that the York Novice Steeplechase, he should be firm home again on Easy Abbe. Peter Easterby's seven-year-old has been a high class hurdler over the past three seasons and he is taken well to fences. Greyhound Rambler, trained by Gordon Richards as Rustic Prince, saw through well in a driving field to win at Ayr in his previous appearance this season. Rustic Prince and Ron Barry think a lot of horse and I do not suppose him in the Bickerton Handicap Hurdle.

## Kempton Park programme

[Television (BBC 1): 1.15, 1.45 and 2.30 races]

12.45 MISTLETOE STEEPLECHASE (567: 2m)

12.45-12.50 Bucks Head (5), Fairweather (5), Whiffles (5), 11-10  
12.50-12.55 Cape Clarendon (D), 11-10  
12.55-13.00 Corrie (C), 11-10  
13.00-13.05 Dade (5), 11-10  
13.05-13.10 Dade (5), 11-10  
13.10-13.15 Dade (5), 11-10  
13.15-13.20 Dade (5), 11-10  
13.20-13.25 Dade (5), 11-10  
13.25-13.30 Dade (5), 11-10  
13.30-13.35 Dade (5), 11-10  
13.35-13.40 Dade (5), 11-10  
13.40-13.45 Dade (5), 11-10  
13.45-13.50 Dade (5), 11-10  
13.50-13.55 Dade (5), 11-10  
13.55-14.00 Dade (5), 11-10

1.15 HOLLY STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: 5612: 3m)

1.15-1.20 Dade (5), 11-10  
1.20-1.25 Dade (5), 11-10  
1.25-1.30 Dade (5), 11-10  
1.30-1.35 Dade (5), 11-10  
1.35-1.40 Dade (5), 11-10  
1.40-1.45 Dade (5), 11-10  
1.45-1.50 Dade (5), 11-10  
1.50-1.55 Dade (5), 11-10  
1.55-2.00 Dade (5), 11-10

1.45 WILLIAM HILL CHRISTMAS HURDLE (1:50: 2m)

1.45-1.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.50-1.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.55-2.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10

2.10-2.15 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.15-2.20 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.20-2.25 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.25-2.30 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.30-2.35 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.35-2.40 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.40-2.45 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.45-2.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.50-2.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.55-3.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10

2.50 COUNTRY RANGE HURDLE (5:40: 2m)

2.50-2.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.55-3.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.00-3.05 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.05-3.10 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.10-3.15 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.15-3.20 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.20-3.25 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.25-3.30 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.30-3.35 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.35-3.40 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.40-3.45 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.45-3.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.50-3.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.55-4.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10

3.20 BOXING DAY HURDLE (Handicap: 5680: 2m)

3.20-3.25 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.25-3.30 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.30-3.35 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.35-3.40 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.40-3.45 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.45-3.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.50-3.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.55-4.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10

## Kempton Park selections

By Our Racing Correspondent

12.45 Corrie (C), 1.15 Star Pearl, 1.45 Tree Tangle, 2.30 Pencil. 2.50 Present Arms. 3.20 TAMMUZ is specially recommended.

## Wincanton programme

[Television (BBC 1): 1.30 and 2.00 races]

12.30 SPRING CORN STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: 5374: 2m)

12.30-12.35 Wild Fox (D), 11-10  
12.35-12.40 Wild Fox (D), 11-10  
12.40-12.45 Wild Fox (D), 11-10  
12.45-12.50 Wild Fox (D), 11-10  
12.50-12.55 Wild Fox (D), 11-10  
12.55-13.00 Wild Fox (D), 11-10  
13.00-13.05 Wild Fox (D), 11-10  
13.05-13.10 Wild Fox (D), 11-10  
13.10-13.15 Wild Fox (D), 11-10  
13.15-13.20 Wild Fox (D), 11-10  
13.20-13.25 Wild Fox (D), 11-10  
13.25-13.30 Wild Fox (D), 11-10  
13.30-13.35 Wild Fox (D), 11-10  
13.35-13.40 Wild Fox (D), 11-10  
13.40-13.45 Wild Fox (D), 11-10  
13.45-13.50 Wild Fox (D), 11-10  
13.50-13.55 Wild Fox (D), 11-10  
13.55-14.00 Wild Fox (D), 11-10

1.0 LEVY BARD STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: 5508: 3m 1f)

1.0-1.05 Barons (D), 11-10  
1.05-1.10 Barons (D), 11-10  
1.10-1.15 Barons (D), 11-10  
1.15-1.20 Barons (D), 11-10  
1.20-1.25 Barons (D), 11-10  
1.25-1.30 Barons (D), 11-10  
1.30-1.35 Barons (D), 11-10  
1.35-1.40 Barons (D), 11-10  
1.40-1.45 Barons (D), 11-10  
1.45-1.50 Barons (D), 11-10  
1.50-1.55 Barons (D), 11-10  
1.55-2.00 Barons (D), 11-10

1.30 JOE CORAL GOLDEN HURDLE (Handicap: Qualifier: 5982: 2m)

1.30-1.35 Mac's Birthday (D), 11-10  
1.35-1.40 Mac's Birthday (D), 11-10  
1.40-1.45 Mac's Birthday (D), 11-10  
1.45-1.50 Mac's Birthday (D), 11-10  
1.50-1.55 Mac's Birthday (D), 11-10  
1.55-2.00 Mac's Birthday (D), 11-10

2.0 JOE CORAL HURDLE (Handicap: 5983: 2m)

2.0-2.05 Mac's Birthday (D), 11-10  
2.05-2.10 Mac's Birthday (D), 11-10  
2.10-2.15 Mac's Birthday (D), 11-10  
2.15-2.20 Mac's Birthday (D), 11-10  
2.20-2.25 Mac's Birthday (D), 11-10  
2.25-2.30 Mac's Birthday (D), 11-10  
2.30-2.35 Mac's Birthday (D), 11-10  
2.35-2.40 Mac's Birthday (D), 11-10  
2.40-2.45 Mac's Birthday (D), 11-10  
2.45-2.50 Mac's Birthday (D), 11-10  
2.50-2.55 Mac's Birthday (D), 11-10  
2.55-3.00 Mac's Birthday (D), 11-10

2.30 TANTIVY STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: 5374: 2m 5f)

2.30-2.35 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.35-2.40 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.40-2.45 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.45-2.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.50-2.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.55-3.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10

3.0 STIRRUP-CUP HURDLE (Novice: 5:40: 2m)

3.0-3.05 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.05-3.10 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.10-3.15 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.15-3.20 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.20-3.25 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.25-3.30 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.30-3.35 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.35-3.40 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.40-3.45 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.45-3.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.50-3.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.55-4.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10

## Wincanton selections

By Our Racing Correspondent

12.30 Philip the Bold, 1.0 Highland Abbe, 1.30 Mac's Birthday, 2.0 NEON STAR is specially recommended, 2.30 Land Lark, 3.0 Mamma Rous.

## Wolverhampton programme

12.30 OLDBURY STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: 5442: 3m)

12.30-12.35 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
12.35-12.40 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
12.40-12.45 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
12.45-12.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
12.50-12.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
12.55-13.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.00-13.05 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.05-13.10 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.10-13.15 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.15-13.20 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.20-13.25 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.25-13.30 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.30-13.35 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.35-13.40 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.40-13.45 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.45-13.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.50-13.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.55-14.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10

1.0 NETHERTON HURDLE (5:42: 2m)

1.0-1.05 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.05-1.10 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.10-1.15 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.15-1.20 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.20-1.25 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.25-1.30 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.30-1.35 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.35-1.40 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.40-1.45 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.45-1.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.50-1.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.55-2.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10

1.30 HARRY BROWN STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: 5883: 2m)

1.30-1.35 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.35-1.40 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.40-1.45 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.45-1.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.50-1.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.55-2.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10

2.0 DEEPFIELDS STEEPLECHASE (5:40: 2m)

2.0-2.05 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.05-2.10 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.10-2.15 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.15-2.20 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.20-2.25 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.25-2.30 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.30-2.35 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.35-2.40 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.40-2.45 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.45-2.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.50-2.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.55-3.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10

2.30 WALSH HURDLE (5:42: 2m 1f)

2.30-2.35 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.35-2.40 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.40-2.45 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.45-2.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.50-2.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.55-3.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10

3.0 WREKIN HURDLE (5:42: 2m)

3.0-3.05 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.05-3.10 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.10-3.15 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.15-3.20 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.20-3.25 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.25-3.30 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.30-3.35 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.35-3.40 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.40-3.45 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.45-3.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.50-3.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.55-4.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10

## Wolverhampton selections

By Our Racing Staff

12.30 Near and Far, 1.0 Corrie (C), 1.30 Vulturan, 2.0 Winald, 2.30 ZETA'S SON is specially recommended, 3.0 Complicity.

## Sedgefield programme

12.45 HARDWICK HURDLE (Handicap: 5204: 2m)

12.45-12.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
12.50-12.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
12.55-13.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.00-13.05 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.05-13.10 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.10-13.15 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.15-13.20 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.20-13.25 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.25-13.30 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.30-13.35 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.35-13.40 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.40-13.45 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.45-13.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.50-13.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.55-14.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10

1.15 BRADBY STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: 5340: 3m 250yd)

1.15-1.20 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.20-1.25 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.25-1.30 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.30-1.35 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.35-1.40 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.40-1.45 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.45-1.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.50-1.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.55-2.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10

1.45 MORDON HURDLE (Div I: 5204: 2m)

1.45-1.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.50-1.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.55-2.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10

2.15 KING ROLL CUP STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: 5340: 2m)

2.15-2.20 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.20-2.25 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.25-2.30 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.30-2.35 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.35-2.40 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.40-2.45 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.45-2.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.50-2.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.55-3.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10

3.15 MORDON HURDLE (Div II: 5204: 2m)

3.15-3.20 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.20-3.25 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.25-3.30 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.30-3.35 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.35-3.40 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.40-3.45 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.45-3.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.50-3.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.55-4.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10

## Sedgefield selections

By Our Racing Staff

12.45 1.15 Downhill, 1.45 Straight Lemon, 2.15 Wyse Hill, 2.45 Clarin, 3.15 Breakaduck.

## Huntingdon programme

12.30 ST IVO HURDLE (Handicap: Novice: 5204: 2m 1f)

12.30-12.35 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
12.35-12.40 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
12.40-12.45 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
12.45-12.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
12.50-12.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
12.55-13.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.00-13.05 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.05-13.10 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.10-13.15 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.15-13.20 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.20-13.25 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.25-13.30 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.30-13.35 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.35-13.40 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.40-13.45 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.45-13.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.50-13.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.55-14.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10

1.0 BOXING DAY STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: 5374: 2m 1f)

1.0-1.05 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.05-1.10 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.10-1.15 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.15-1.20 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.20-1.25 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.25-1.30 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.30-1.35 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.35-1.40 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.40-1.45 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.45-1.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.50-1.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.55-2.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10

1.30 THRASPUR HURDLE (Handicap: 5340: 2m)

1.30-1.35 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.35-1.40 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.40-1.45 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.45-1.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.50-1.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.55-2.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10

2.0 PEPS STEEPLECHASE (Novice: 5340: 2m 100yds)

2.0-2.05 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.05-2.10 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.10-2.15 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.15-2.20 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.20-2.25 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.25-2.30 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.30-2.35 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.35-2.40 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.40-2.45 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.45-2.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.50-2.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.55-3.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10

2.30 PORT HOLME STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: 5374: 2m 100yds)

2.30-2.35 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.35-2.40 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.40-2.45 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.45-2.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.50-2.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.55-3.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10

3.0 OUSE HURDLE (Handicap: 5374: 2m 1f)

3.0-3.05 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.05-3.10 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.10-3.15 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.15-3.20 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.20-3.25 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.25-3.30 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.30-3.35 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.35-3.40 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.40-3.45 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.45-3.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.50-3.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
3.55-4.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10

## Huntingdon selections

By Our Racing Staff

12.30 Comedy of Errors, 1.0 Dailydale, 1.30 Daze, 2.0 Last Crack, 2.30 Even Sail, 3.0 Concealed.

## Market Rasen programme

12.30 MUCH OBLIGED HURDLE (Handicap: 5170: 2m)

12.30-12.35 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
12.35-12.40 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
12.40-12.45 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
12.45-12.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
12.50-12.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
12.55-13.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.00-13.05 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.05-13.10 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.10-13.15 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.15-13.20 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.20-13.25 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.25-13.30 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.30-13.35 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.35-13.40 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.40-13.45 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.45-13.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.50-13.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
13.55-14.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10

1.0 ACCURATE HURDLE (Div I: 5:30 Novices: 5340: 2m)

1.0-1.05 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.05-1.10 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.10-1.15 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.15-1.20 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.20-1.25 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.25-1.30 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.30-1.35 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.35-1.40 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.40-1.45 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.45-1.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.50-1.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.55-2.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10

1.30 BRUCE CARR STEEPLECHASE (Novices: 5680: 3m)

1.30-1.35 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.35-1.40 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.40-1.45 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.45-1.50 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.50-1.55 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
1.55-2.00 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10

2.0 LUMBER HILL STEEPLECHASE (Novices: 5442: 2m)

2.0-2.05 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.05-2.10 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.10-2.15 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.15-2.20 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.20-2.25 Comedy of Errors (D), 11-10  
2.25-2.30 Comedy of Errors (D),



مكتبة الأصل

# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

For Saving  
Investing and  
House-Purchase

HALIFAX  
BUILDING SOCIETY

For Saving  
Investing and  
House-Purchase

HALIFAX  
BUILDING SOCIETY

### Requests for state aid pour in as pressure on costs and profitability intensifies

By Maurice Corina  
Industrial Editor

The queue of industrial companies seeking state assistance is growing sharply as a result of the intensifying pressures on costs and profitability. Applications to the Department of Industry are now pouring in from Whitehall and regional offices.

Officials of the department now have under study 600 requests for selective financial assistance—and this is in spite of processing an unprecedented 850 applications since January.

All these applications have been lodged under Section 7 of the Industrial Act to safeguard or to provide new jobs in hard-pressed regions. A large number of claims for interest relief grants are included.

Since January, the department has made offers of special assistance totalling £180m, nearly three times the level for last year and outpacing even the more routine £171m paid out in regional development grants.

But the £180m worth of offers of state aid is not the full story. Departmental officials estimate that £160m more is involved in the 600 applications now awaiting decisions.

This huge surge in requests to the Government for taxpayer help comes on top of the much-publicised cases of a handful of companies seeking Section 8 assistance, ranging from Alfred Herbert to Ferranti and British Leyland.

Although new financing has yet to be fully worked out, the separate Finance for Industry organization, into which financial institutions are to channel funds for more medium-term borrowing, is experiencing a growing number of inquiries.

There is some evidence that some companies not yet named are among the firms seeking Section 8 aid, which can be given only if the national interest is involved or help cannot be obtained from conventional sources.

The department reports that there are now 14 applications under Section 8 provisions apart from four offers which have been made and reported.

This is a big swing round. In September, Mr R. A. Clark, the chairman of the industrial Development Advisory Board (who has opposed at least three of the offers) commented that few applications were being made under Section 8.

But even more startling is

the surge in calls to Whitehall for special loans and interest relief grants under Section 7 of the Industrial Act. Here financial assistance may be given if companies can argue that taxpayer help will provide, maintain, or protect employment. Offers being made to the proposed Scottish Daily News and IPD come under this section.

The fact that 1450 separate applications have flowed into the department since January provides some measure of industry's search to supplement traditional ways of financing their capital programmes or dealing with special situations.

It is reasonable to assume that pressures have intensified in recent months. Although the offers made, or under consideration, involve £340m, only £40m of Section 7 aid has actually so far been paid out.

There is strong evidence that companies are more familiar with the types of aid available under the Industrial Act, which is to be revised when new legislation is introduced after the parliamentary recess, creating the National Enterprise Board to reinforce Whitehall's capability for dealing with requests for selective assistance.

### Settlement likely in US air rebates row

By Arthur Reed  
Air Correspondent

A settlement now appears to be in sight in a long-standing United States investigation of illegal rebates paid by a number of large foreign airlines to travel agents.

Lawyers for the airlines have tentatively agreed that some of the charges should be admitted, and that "no contest" pleas should be entered in others.

Rebates to travel agents, amounting to many millions of dollars a year, have long been almost routine industry practice, particularly on the routes across the North Atlantic where airline competition is fierce.

Settling the investigation, which could lead to fines on some airlines, will eventually establish clear legal ground rules on rebates, while establishing a precedent for a greater access to records of foreign airlines by the United States government.

This in its turn would help investigations into alleged illegal rebating, so gradually stamping the practice out.

### Go-ahead for Lonrho's Sudan sugar project

By John Woodland

Lonrho, the Pan-African trading conglomerate, has been given the go-ahead for its \$180m (£77m) sugar project in Sudan. It is claimed it will be the first single sugar estate in the world.

It is a joint venture linking European, Japanese and Arab capital with that of the Sudan Government which will have 51 per cent of the equity of Kenana Sugar Company, which will operate the estate. Kenana will have an issued capital of nearly \$30m.

The estate will have a capacity of over 350,000 tons (some 50,000 tons more than originally envisaged) of white sugar and will begin production in November, 1977. The site has a fully developed potential of around 1m tons annually.

Since 1971 when Lonrho initiated the scheme with the Sudan Government more than 200 experts and technologists from Sudan, Europe, Japan, the United States and elsewhere in Africa have been deployed by Lonrho on aerial, topographical and soil survey, site selection, mill design and the design of an extensive pump and irrigation scheme to be fed from the White Nile.

At the site a canal has already been dug and water is due to commence flowing to the seed cane farm within one month. Meanwhile trials of cane varieties at the nursery site have already demonstrated promising results.

Sudan is currently a heavy sugar importer and this scheme will not only make it independent of imports but will enable it to export around 150,000 tons. It is certainly an excellent project for the Arab nations to invest some of their oil earnings.

Reuter reports from Suva that Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, the Fijian Prime Minister, has renewed the Commonwealth sugar producers' ultimatum to cut supplies to Britain if there is no agreement on supplies to the European Economic Community.

Speaking on his return from two weeks of talks in London, Brussels and Dakar, he said: "The present agreement, made on December 31, if there is no agreement there will be no supply."

### Mr Varley decides to wait as garages ignore the 10p limit

By Edward Townsend

The Department of Energy is not yet considering the reimposition of price controls on petrol despite the fact that garages throughout the country have ignored government pleas not to increase prices by more than 10p a gallon.

The biggest petrol price increase ever sanctioned in the United Kingdom came into force last Friday, coupled with the abolition of maximum retail price control and a warning from Mr Varley, the Energy Secretary, that should prices rise by more than 10p a gallon he would not hesitate to reimpose control.

This brought a bitter reaction from retailers' leaders who claimed that they needed at least another 1p to bolster falling profit margins. As a result, the price of four-star fuel has gone up to about 73p in many areas.

A Department of Energy spokesman said yesterday, however, that the situation would have to be watched for some considerable time before a full assessment of prices could be made. Mr Varley was not considering bringing back controls at the moment.

Mr Varley's suggested 10p "limit" would give retailers the extra 1p that they had been demanding, said the spokesman. In fact, the Motor Agents Association, which represents the bulk of the country's garages, had asked for the extra margin before the increase was announced and the more militant Petroleum Retailers Association had demanded considerably more.

Mr Geoffrey Atkinson, the PRA's general secretary, said yesterday that the average four-star price was now 73.75p a gallon. In the West Country up to 75p a gallon was being charged, but in some areas current prices as low as 68p a gallon were being sold.

It now appeared that after last week's angry response from retailers to Mr Varley's 10p limit, any decision to reimpose controls would be delayed until the report from the Price Commission on petrol retailers' margins, expected in February, was published.

"I am confident this will show that we have been very modest with our present increases," he said.

### Sindona bank faces interest rate inquiry

From John Earle  
Rome, Dec. 23

Several Italian public corporations are involved in allegations that Banca Sindona, a member of the collapsed Sindona group, paid secret, supplementary interest rates on their deposit accounts with the bank. The extra money was allegedly paid to individuals, sometimes apparently with cheques made out to fictitious names.

According to *Panorama* magazine, Banca Sindona paid an open interest rate on these deposits of 5.75 per cent, plus a supplementary rate of 1.75 per cent last year and this year. It named Fimmeccanica, Ente Minerario Siciliano and Gescal, as among the corporations affected.

Fimmeccanica, the engineering and mechanical holding company of the IRI parent group, was reported to have the biggest deposit, of about 50,000 lire (about £33m). Ente Minerario Siciliano, the Sicilian regional authorities' mining agency, was said to have a deposit of about 7,500 lire, and Gescal, a public body which builds workers' houses, about 10,000 lire.

In the case of Fimmeccanica, *Panorama* said the "black" payments were made with non-transferable cheques to a person whose name it gave but did not identify as real or fictitious. Officials of Fimmeccanica were not available for comment, while officials of the parent corporation, IRI, referred inquiries to Fimmeccanica.

As far as Ente Minerario Siciliano was concerned, the magazine said a "black" payment cheque, totalling about 70m lire (nearly £47,000) were made out to fictitious names. These were cashed by two individuals whom the magazine identified and who have senior positions with the company.

The Sicilian regional government has in the meantime ordered an inquiry, and promised to publish the results. The board of the Ente Minerario, after receiving letters from the two individuals denying any connection with the bank, has asked the regional government to order an inquiry into the regional assembly want the two officials suspended.

In the case of Gescal, *Panorama* said 10 cheques, each of 5m lire, were received by a Christian Democrat senator who is a junior minister, while other cheques, totalling 175m lire, were made out to a financial adviser to the senator.

Banca Sindona was merged last summer by Signor Sindona with Banca Privata Finanziaria to form Banca Privata Italiana, now in enforced liquidation. Signor Sindona, who is somewhere abroad, is wanted by the Italian authorities for several charges, including falsifying accounts.

### Cut in oil imports aids France

A drop in oil imports in November substantially helped France's foreign trade position in the month, actually putting it into a small surplus on an unadjusted basis, official sources said.

France had an unadjusted surplus of 65m francs (about £5m) in November, compared with a deficit of 926m francs in October. On an adjusted basis, however, the deficit was 218m francs against a 1,489m francs shortfall in October.

Crude oil imports totalled 7 million tonnes in November, up sharply from 11.4 million in October and 11.8 million in November 1973.

### Aluminium output up

Primary aluminium production in the non-communist world rose by 7.3 per cent last month over November, 1973, to 15,000 tonnes, the International Aluminium Institute reported yesterday.

Average daily output in November was 30,500 tonnes compared with 28,200 tonnes in October and 28,400 tonnes in November, last year.

### JS lead-petrol ruling

The United States circuit court of Appeals for the District of Columbia has ruled to set aside plans by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for a gradual reduction of lead in gasoline, according to Ethyl Corporation lawyers set up by the EPA were challenged by various chemical and oil companies.

### Nigeria loan to IMF

The International Monetary Fund has completed arrangements to borrow credits worth \$120m from Nigeria to help to finance oil credits to other countries. The World Bank has also borrowed \$240m from Nigeria at 8 per cent interest.

### Mr Isa purchase

Mount Isa Mines is to purchase Placer Prospecting (Australia), a subsidiary of Placer Exploration, for about \$9m (£5.8m). The agreement provides for the immediate repayment of a loan of \$2m to Placer Exploration as part of the deal is subject to Australian government approval.

### Honeywell £12m sale

Ford Motors has ordered 26m (nearly £12m) of Honeywell's new series 60 computers for use in its automotive assembly division plants. Honeywell said.

### Chloride rights issue

About 35 per cent of Chloride Group's £7m one-for-four rights issue at a share has been taken up by shareholders. The remaining 65 per cent has been taken up by the underwriters.

### ITT accepts Avis plan

International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation (ITT) yesterday accepted the Justice Department's plan for the company to sell its Avis stake.

### Italian output drops

Confindustria, Italy's national association of manufacturers, said in a report published yesterday that industrial production in Italy in the fourth quarter would be 4.2 per cent below that of the same 1973 period.

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### Glimmer of hope in Courtaulds dispute

A glimmer of hope emerged in the Courtaulds dispute at Grimsby yesterday when Mr Percy Brewer, Courtaulds' works manager, said that he was willing to meet the unions at any time.

The group's acrylics plant at Grimsby has been closed because of industrial disruption, putting at least 1,000 men out of work for Christmas.

Mr Anthony Crosland, in whose constituency the plant lies, said: "It is a scandal that the management had not one single meeting with the workers between November 27 and the unilateral 'fait accompli' decision last Friday."

"Such authoritarian behaviour goes totally counter to all modern ideas about the need for close consultation between management and workers and for greater industrial democracy," he added.

Mr Crosland said that he had written to Mr Michael Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, telling him that there could not be an industrial dispute when management and workers had not met for three weeks before the decision to close the plant.

Men laid off at Courtaulds have been refused unemployment pay. Mr Crosland said that an industrial dispute exists.

### EEC calls for shares ban in French takeover battle

Paris, Dec. 23.—The Paris Stock Brokers Association has suspended trading in Marine-Firminy shares following intervention by the Commission of the European Economic Community, the association said today.

The commission has called on the association to forbid Cie Lorraine Industrielle et Financière (CLIF) from purchasing Marine-Firminy stock. CLIF, which is the holding company of the de Wendel Group, are reported to have bought more than 30 per cent of Firminy's stock in the past three weeks.

Wendels interest follows the

take-over bid for Firminy launched by the Daimler Nord-Lowery Group through an exchange of shares.

Daimler's offer, valid until January 23, has also been opposed by the French-Belgian Empegn-Schneider group which owns 23 per cent of Firminy's shares. Furthermore, the board of Firminy said it could not recommend acceptance of Daimler's offer.

The offer involves the exchange of one Firminy share for one share of Usinor, which is valued at 185 francs, plus a cash bonus of 45 francs, on the basis of Monday's closing price of 94.80 francs for Usinor shares.

### Italy cuts bank rate to 8pc to boost exports and jobs

Rome, Dec. 23.—Italy's bank rate will be reduced to 8 per cent from 9 per cent, the Treasury Ministry announced today. The change will take effect from Friday.

The rate was last changed on March 30 this year when it was raised to 9 per cent from 6½ per cent.

Bank of Italy sources said the rate was cut to stimulate exports, encourage investment and boost employment. Nearly a million are out of work in Italy.

Earlier this month, major Italian commercial banks raised their prime lending rate to 19 per cent from 18.5 per cent. Rates to non-prime customers were also raised to an effective 21.55 per cent from 21 per cent.

Official figures published today showed that the cost of living in Italy increased 25.2 per cent in the 12 months to November while Italy's balance of payments deficit reached 3,138,900m lire (about £2,050m) in the first 10 months this year. —Reuter.

### Nation Life liquidator granted extension

An extension to run Nation Life Assurance as a going concern for another three months has been granted to Mr Gerry Weiss, the liquidator.

Under the new Insurance Companies Amendment Act, 1973, a liquidator of an insurance company is allowed to run the company on this basis for six months in order to try and find a positive solution to the situation.

Mr Weiss's original order expires at the end of the month.

### Keyser Ullmann profit well down in half year

Profits of Keyser Ullmann Holdings, the merchant banking group, were "substantially less" in the half year to the end of September than those in the corresponding half last year.

Last year Keyser made a profit of £5.1m.

Despite the downturn, an unchanged net dividend is being paid which, because of taxation changes, means an increase in the gross dividend from 1.57p to 1.64p a share.

### Money supply figures clarified

Because of errors in the Bank of England money supply statistics, published on Monday, it was necessary to withhold our regular table. Following clarification of the official figures the table now appears below.

MONEY SUPPLY				
The following are the figures released for the monthly amount of the money stock, seasonally adjusted, at the mid-month make-up date.				
	M1	M3	2000m	M3
1973	12.3	31.3	-9.5	24.8
Nov	12.3	32.2	-0.9	27.6
Dec	12.3	32.2	-0.9	27.6
1974				
Jan	12.4	32.8	6.4	25.3
Feb	12.3	33.4	-2.0	29.5
Mar	12.3	33.4	-2.6	15.6
Apr	12.6	35.5	-7.6	6.5
May	12.5	35.8	9.4	0.2
June	12.5	36.5	0.0	13.8
July	12.7	34.9	6.8	16.5
Aug	12.7	36.0	11.1	18.6
Sept	12.9	36.2	11.7	6.9
Oct	13.0	35.6	11.0	8.2
Nov				

### Mr Michael Posner to join Treasury

Mr Michael Posner (above), lecturer in economics and chairman of the faculty board of economics and politics of Cambridge University, and fellow and director of studies in economics at Pembroke College, has been appointed deputy chief economic adviser to the Treasury.

Mr Posner, who is 43, will initially work part time at the Treasury and take up his appointment full time in the summer.

### GM 'disagrees' with finding

Antwerp, Dec. 23.—General Motors Continental said today that it "strongly disagrees" with the European Economic Community Commission finding that its Belgian unit violated competition rules in the EEC.

The Commission fined GM Continental 100,000 units of account (£50,000) for allegedly charging excessive prices for inspecting and issuing type approval documents for Opel cars brought into Belgium not controlled by itself. Opel are made by GM's West German unit, Adam Opel AG.—AP-Dow Jones.

### Arab eyes on Borel

Jacques Borel, the French hotel group, is negotiating with Arab interests who are considering associating themselves with the group's activities and possibly taking a share stake. Nine-month operating profits are up from 15.5m francs to 25.6m francs and full-year profits are expected to be 35 per cent up at 33m francs.

### Adelaide SE fines director of Poseidon

From Our Correspondent  
Adelaide, Dec. 23

Mr Norman Shierlaw, whose name was most frequently linked with the Poseidon share boom four years ago, has been fined for three months by the Stock Exchange of Adelaide, from where the company operates. Mr Shierlaw is a Poseidon director and shareholder in Adelaide.

He has also been fined \$A1,000 (about £1,400). The stock exchange announced this today after Mr Shierlaw had withdrawn an appeal against the exchange committee's ruling.

The exchange investigation followed an inquiry into Australian stock exchange dealings, by a Federal Senate select committee. The Senate report said that Mr Shierlaw and Poseidon's consulting geologists had used large numbers of Poseidon shares before any public announcement of the company's nickel discovery.

The Senate report criticised Mr Shierlaw for exploiting his shareholding to influence the exchange committee's ruling.

Mr Shierlaw was unavailable for comment today and Poseidon shares, which at the height of the boom touched \$A280, closed at \$A47.50 on the Adelaide exchange today.

### Kuwait has liquidity problem

Despite earning about \$8,000m from oil revenue in 1974, Kuwait has faced a liquidity shortage since May, say financial sources. This has meant a cutback in lending by banks and a fall in share prices.

The shortage was caused by a large demand for credit when deposits could not keep pace with loans, and higher import costs.

### How the markets moved

The Times Index: 64.51 -1.15  
FT index: 160.8 -2.7

**Rises**

Beecham Grp	1p to 12½p	Hoare Chan	1p to 30p
CLP	3p to 25½p	Lee Cooper	5p to 45p
Moss Bros	4p to 22p	Moore Bros	4p to 22p
Cons Goldfields	3p to 28p	Seaford	4p to 22p
Unilever	4p to 16p	Westminster	4p to 22p
Foodland	4p to 22p	Western Areas	4p to 22p
Groceries Econ	4p to 22p	Wellcom	4p to 22p
Highland	4p to 22p		

**Falls**

Barrat	4p to 15p	Imp Chem Ind	4p to 12½p
Barclays Bk	4p to 12½p	Lewiston Int	3p to 5p
Boots	4p to 95p	M&P	3p to 85p
Bowater Corp	5p to 10p	Prop Ridge	3p to 10p
Comptrols	5p to 15p	Sagers	5p to 24p
Hammerston	5p to 15p	Stock Conv	5p to 65p
Hawker Sid	4p to 14p	Vickers	2p to 70p

Equities were featured by activity in gold shares. Gilt-edged securities remained quiet. Sterling gained 50 points at \$2.805. The "effective" devaluation rate was 21.5 per cent. Gold moved up to \$193. SDRs were 1.21540 while SDRs were 1.21540. Commodities: Sugar prices rose sharply with gains ranging to £30; the London daily quotation was lifted £25 to £440. Cocoa futures advanced between £5.50 and £10 while coffee lost between £1.50 and £4.50. Copper advanced £1 and tin £8.50. Lead was £2.50 higher, and LME silver gained 5.1p. Reuters index was 4.5 up at 1,180.7.

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### Car output in Europe continues to decline

Paris, Dec. 23.—French motor industry exports weakened only slightly in the first 11 months of 1974 while production declined 5 per cent in volume and new car registrations dropped 13.9 per cent during the same period, the industry federation said today.

The federation said, however, that the industry's situation worsened "considerably" in November with production off 18.2 per cent from a year earlier, while exports and new car registrations declined 12.5 per cent and 27 per cent respectively.

It blamed the deterioration on the general economic downturn.

French car output in November declined to 282,648 units from 343,943 in October and 302,255 in November, 1973.

Production for the first 11 months totalled 3,187,070 units, including 2,801,905 private vehicles, down from 3,308,252 and 2,948,785, respectively, last year.

November exports totalled 157,600 vehicles, including 139,840 private cars, down from 173,360 and 159,770 respectively, in November, 1973. First 11 months exports totalled 1,777,565 units, down from 1,176,564 a year earlier.

New car registrations in November totalled 124,395. Import figures were not available. German output down: West Ger-

many's motor vehicle production declined to 243,555 units in November from 295,168 units in October and from 343,164 units in November a year ago, the automobile industry federation reported.

November passenger car production dropped to 202,866 units from 249,144 units in October and from 298,888 units in November, 1973.

Motor vehicle exports declined to 137,699 units in November from October's 155,231 units and from 201,936 units in November, 1973. The 11-month production declined to 2,822,889 units from 3,076,022 units in the like 1973 period, while 11-month motor vehicle exports dropped to 1,739,642 units from 2,166,560 units.—AP-Dow Jones.

Chile's position: The Chilean government will soon acquire the 49 per cent interest owned by Citroen S.A. in a car assembly plant at Arica, Chile, company officials said.

The government-owned Corfo company already owns 51 per cent of Citroen-Chile, which assembles about 6,000 units per year. Negotiations for the takeover are being carried out at Santiago, the officials said.

Toyota cutbacks: Toyota Motor said it plans to halve its capital outlay for the fiscal year beginning next April. The firm said the reduction reflects a slump in domestic car sales.

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### NCB chief promises miners top place in wages league

By David Young

Sir Derek Ezra, National Coal Board chairman, yesterday told miners in Scotland that recent improved coal output has increased hopes that the target of 120 million tons being produced in the year ending in March can be reached.

He was speaking to miners at the invitation of Mr Mick McGahey, president of the Scottish Mineworkers' Union and vice-president of the NUM. Sir Derek also told the miners that the NCB had to make sure that they stayed at the top of the wages league.

While at the Monktonhall colliery near Edinburgh, the NCB chairman took the opportunity to discuss with Scottish union officials details of the NCB's productivity drive.

Both sides expressed com-

plete agreement on a firm commitment to reach the Scottish output target of 10 million tons as "quickly as possible". Sir Derek said that over £60m was to be spent in the next 10 years in improving existing Scottish collieries and on new developments.

Each year for the next five years firm is to be spent on developing the new Seafield colliery and early next year the first radio-controlled coal shearer to be used in a British pit will be in operation at Seafield.

Sir Derek said that recent productivity had been encouraging. He said: "This is not a question of speeding up miners, it is not a question of increased muscle power. It is a question of utilizing more efficiently the machinery that is there at their disposal."









## A message from Mr Cube.

"I had hoped to bring you good tidings. As it is, I'm still short of sugar.

The sugar shortage hurts us all. For you, it means continual irritation, not to mention ever higher prices. For us at Tate & Lyle it has meant a decline in the activity and earnings of our U.K. sugar refineries. Other divisions, like shipping, engineering, road transport and international trading are thriving; but the sugar shortage hurts everyone.

Do not think that nothing is being done. Everyone concerned has been making great efforts to ensure adequate sugar supplies.

But so far final agreement with the suppliers has eluded both the Government and the E.E.C.

Agreement must be reached soon. A sweet 1975 depends on it. Meanwhile,

**Happy Christmas!"**



**+TATE  
+LYLE**

*Out of sweetness came forth strength*









## Stock Exchange Prices

## Rises in gold shares

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin Today. Dealings End Jan 10. §Contango Day, Jan 13. Settlement Day, Jan 21.  
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

BRITISH FUNDS				COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN				LOCAL AUTHORITIES				ORIGIN STOCKS				DOLLAR STOCKS				BANKS AND DISCOUNTS				BREWERS AND DISTILLERS				SHIPPING			
Stock	Price	Change	Div. %	Stock	Price	Change	Div. %	Stock	Price	Change	Div. %	Stock	Price	Change	Div. %	Stock	Price	Change	Div. %	Stock	Price	Change	Div. %	Stock	Price	Change	Div. %	Stock	Price	Change	Div. %
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